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NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Poland to register farmers' union

Polish authorities have agreed to recognise the right of 3.5m private farmers to organise their own trade union.

The union will be registered by May 10, according to an agreement signed yesterday in Sydgoszcz. Page 2

Giscard witnesses

Police are questioning five witnesses in Bastia, Corsica, the city President Giscard visited before flying to Ajaccio. A Swiss tourist injured in Thursday's airport explosion died yesterday. Back Page; French election, Page 2

Hull rugby battle

ABOUT 600 rival Rugby League fans of Hull and Hull Kingston Rovers fought with bricks at a match in Hull. The game was temporarily stopped. About 30 were injured, at least four seriously, and 13 were arrested.

Ulster tense

Ulster was tense over IRA hunger-striker Bobby Sands. He has a life expectancy of two weeks or less. Security forces feared further violence, arising from this weekend's Republican demonstrations.

Biking back

Hesketh Motorcycles launched a 1,000 cc "super-bike" at the International Motor-cycle Show, Birmingham. Page 3

Honecker elected

East German Communist Party leader Erich Honecker was re-elected for a third five-year term.

King Khaled trip

Saudi Arabia's ruler will make his first State visit to Britain from June 9-12.

Briton for trial

Michael Powell, 28, among seven foreign hostages held by north Iraq Kurdish guerrillas, will be tried for alleged connection with British Intelligence.

Space war call

Soviet President Brezhnev called on the U.S. to restart negotiations to prevent military activity in space. Space shuttle's next flights will be in early November or sooner.

Storm deaths

More than 100 people were feared killed by a storm sweeping through Orissa, India.

Policing Basques

Spain proposes to accelerate formation of a Basque police force.

Briefly . . .

Christians and Jews thronged Jerusalem to observe Easter and Passover.

Pope John Paul washed and kissed the feet of 12 old men in Rome.

All major UK roads were packed with traffic—35,000 cars an hour left London.

Holidaymakers were blamed for 30 acres of fires in Ashdown Forest, Sussex.

Presbyterian elder Roy Bevan lost his supermarket butcher's franchise for refusing to work on Good Friday.

Hastings' traditional marble contest was won by Battle Clubs.

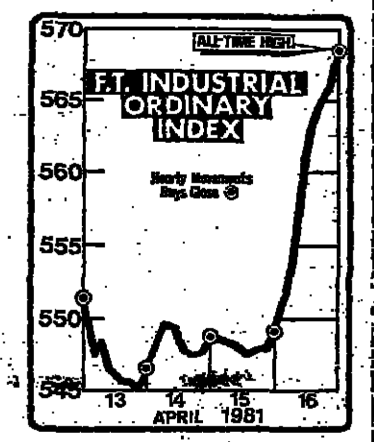
Financial Times

in common with other national newspapers the Financial Times will not be published on Easter Monday.

BUSINESS

Gold up by $8; dollar firmer

● EQUITIES jumped 19.4—the biggest daily rise for two years—to an all-time high of 568.5, well beyond the previous peak of 558.6 recorded in May, 1979 after the Tory election win. The buying surge also took the FT-Actuaries All-share index to a new high of 324.15. Page 20



● GILTS were overshadowed, but the Government Securities index was steady at 69.23. Page 20

● STERLING closed at $2.155 in New York after easing 40 points to $2.154 in quiet trading in London. It improved slightly to DM 4.71 (DM 4.70) and FFr 11.115 (FFr 11.105) and its Bank of England index was down to 98.8 from 98.9. Page 19

● DOLLAR finished at Y217.3 in Tokyo yesterday after Thursday closes of Y217.2 in New York and Y217.1 (Y216.4) in London. New York's DM 2.187 was also up on London's DM 2.1865 (DM 2.1765). Its trade-weighted index rose to 103.0 (102.4). Page 19

● GOLD rose $8 on shortcovering in London, to $482.5. In New York the Comex April close was $488. Page 19

● WALL STREET closed 3.87 up at 1005.58 on volume of 52.95m shares. Page 16

● STERLING M3, the broadly-defined money supply, grew 0.7 per cent, seasonally adjusted, in the month to mid-March. Page 3

● TRADE SECRETARY John Biffen rejected a Department of Trade recommendation that Saint Piran, the controversial mining and property company, be wound up. Back Page

● AMBULANCE workers' leaders called on their unions for national strikes if a 6 per cent pay offer is not substantially improved. Page 3

● EEC steelmakers said they were near agreement on voluntary production cuts and higher prices to avert a price war in the depressed industry. Page 2

● ITALY'S Government proposed spending cuts of L5,000bn (£2bn) as part of its strategy to cut inflation and boost exports, complementing last month's lira devaluation. Page 2

● ENGINEERING workers' union policymaking conference this month faces a clash over whether to apply for Government money to fund election ballots. Page 3

● HEWDEN-STUART, plant hirer and seller, reported attributable pre-tax profits of £2.95m, for the year to February 1, down £5.58m on the previous 53-week period, but raised the year's dividend. Page 14

● READY MIXED CONCRETE, building materials producer, bid for British Dredging, Cardiff aggregates and construction group. The offer, valuing British Dredging at about £4m, was called "miserable" by the group chairman. Page 14

● AMERICAN MOTORS of Detroit reported a record first-quarter loss of $52.7m (£24.4m), down from a $1.3m profit in the January-March period last year.

Encouragement for Government in rise of industrial output

BY PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Government has had its most encouraging week of economic news since the general election nearly two years ago.

Industrial output has risen slightly, wage and price increases remain moderate, share prices have jumped to record levels, and leading businessmen are being cautiously optimistic.

The final piece of less gloomy news was the announcement on Thursday that the post-Budget rise in the retail prices index was 1.5 per cent, at the lower end of the expected range.

After the unrelenting barrage of criticism since the autumn from prominent economists, industrialists and MPs of all parties there is now clear relief in Whitehall that there are at last signs that the worst of the recession may be over.

There is no euphoria, however. Unemployment is, after all, at the highest level for nearly 50 years and is still rising.

The pressures on manufacturing industry, especially exporters, remain severe and there is considerable uncertainty about the prospects for output from now on after the very sharp falls of the past year.

The Government expects a steady recovery but many economists, and the Confederation of British Industry, believe activity will "bounce along the bottom," and could even fall slightly during the next 12 months.

Nevertheless, CBI leaders have become less pessimistic in talking about a "flattening out" of output and some leading company chairmen appear optimistic about the potential for large productivity gains.

The most clearly encouraging indicators have been about inflation. Pay rises in manufacturing are in single figures on average and Department of Employment figures on Thursday suggest that there are still strong moderating pressures on a wide range of private sector prices.

The retail prices index rose by 1.5 per cent in the month to mid-March to 284.0 (January 1974=100). But the hiccup in the 12-month rate of increase—up to 12.6 per cent from 12.5 per cent in mid-February—was less than widely feared.

About two-thirds of the rise in the index last month reflected the Budget increases in duty on petrol, alcoholic drinks, tobacco and vehicle excise duty. This implies an underlying rise of less than ½ per cent despite a sharp increase in the price of many fresh vegetables.

Officials are now confident that the 12-month rate will resume its downward trend over the next few months.

Price increases are still likely to be large in April with a further 1 per cent to come from the Budget measures, around 0.6 per cent from higher local authority rates and 0.8 per cent from council rents, though the lower mortgage rate will knock 0.2 per cent off the index. However, these rises are likely to be less than the 3.4 per cent increase in April 1980.

The figures again show the wide differences between the private sector squeezed by the recession and the need to reduce stocks and the monopoly public sector. In the year to March prices of clothing and footwear rose by 2.2 per cent and prices of durable household goods increased by 5.3 per cent, while nationalised industry prices jumped by 24.1 per cent.

Customs delays less than predicted

By Christian Tyler, Labour Editor

EASTER HOLIDAYMAKERS were delayed less than predicted yesterday despite industrial action by customs men at air and seaports.

Queues occasionally built up at main airports during the day, but passengers rarely had to wait longer than half an hour.

The customs men's walkouts, which are part of the Civil Service unions' campaign of strikes over pay, will continue during the long weekend. Although many would-be holidaymakers appear to have changed their plans, deterred by forecasts of long delays, the queues could build up on Monday as travellers return from abroad.

If this happens—and customs officials do not expect it—new customs rules might be operated. An official of the Civil and Public Services Association said yesterday sealed orders to customs controllers would allow foot and car passengers to move unchecked through the green "nothing to declare" channels if the pressure built up.

The unions also believe duty-free allowances will be temporarily doubled, to hasten the flow through the red channels. This device was employed in 1979 during the last Civil Service dispute.

Long-prepared plans to halt aircraft movement in the UK by bringing out air traffic controllers could be put into effect as early as Thursday. The air traffic controllers' assistants have already voted for further action.

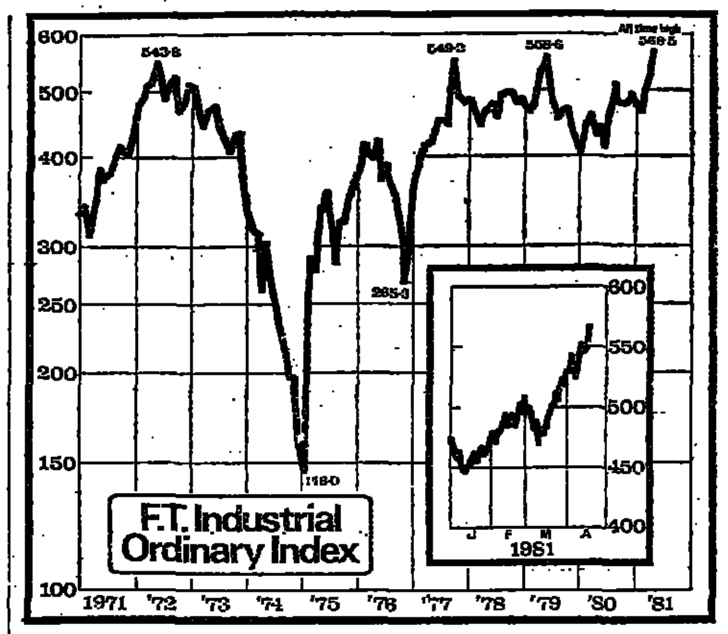
● The threat of industrial action by railwaymen after Easter in protest at the closure of a freight line across the Pennines was lifted on Thursday night after a compromise was offered by British Rail.

BR still intends to close part of the line between Manchester Sheffield and Wath, but said it would defer the closure from June 1 until July 20. This was accepted by the national executive committee of the National Union of Railwaymen. The NUR, which wanted a public inquiry into the decision, decided to hold its own inquiry and report to the union's annual conference at the beginning of July.

BR is hoping that the inquiry will satisfy the conference that there is no alternative to ending the service.

£ in New York

	April 16	Previous
Spot	2.1550-1570	2.1500-1530
1 month	0.93-1.00 pm	0.68-0.75 pm
3 months	2.30-2.40 pm	2.25-2.35 pm
12 months	7.10-7.30 pm	6.80-7.00 pm



Buying spree lifts FT Index to record 568.5

BY CHRISTINE MOIR

INSTITUTIONAL investors went on a buying spree on Thursday, driving the FT Index up 19.4 points to an all-time high of 568.5.

The rise, which lifted the index 9.9 points above its previous high of May 4, 1979, was the more startling for its break with tradition—investors have usually started their Easter exodus by Maundy Thursday and trading is light.

Blue chip shares led the list of most active stocks. Five of the 30 companies in the Index—GEC, ICI, Lucas, Plessey and Thorn—featured in the list of the 12 most sought stocks.

The surge was led by the electrical giants. GEC's shares rose 29p to 702p, Thorn EMI's 18p to 400p.

BP put on 14p to reach 398p. ICI came up 16p to 282p.

It was not only the glamour sectors which investors were seeking. Among the industrials, GKN rose 12p to 178p, Lucas 11p to 220p and Tubes 10p to 222p.

Only Vickers lost ground, falling 4p to 181p. Hawker Siddeley was unchanged at 338. Imperial Group put on ½p to reach 74½p.

The rise was not confined to the 30-share index. The FT-Actuaries All-Share Index, which plots 750 shares, reached a record level of 324.15, representing a gain of 7.95 points.

Thursday's bull market had not been foreshadowed in trading the preceding trading. On Monday the indices fell from their Friday peaks. Throughout Tuesday and Wednesday the market seemed content to go nowhere.

Although news from the economic front was brightening, market observers believed all the week that the three-month-old steady rise in equities had run its course. The good news had been more than discounted, it was said.

The market entered a bull phase last autumn, hitting a peak of 515.9 on November 21, as represented by the FT Index.

It then started to slide, and by January 14 had fallen back to 446. Then an almost vertical rise started, interrupted only by ICI's decision to cut its dividend and initial reactions that the Budget was "good for gilts, bad for equities."

The latest surge started on Wednesday week when the Index rose 15 points to 540. By the end of that week it had hit 551.3.

Statisticians are confused about what has fuelled this latest bull market.

Institutional liquidity is thought to be low.

Pension funds, in particular, have had their cash flow increases slowed by lower wage settlements and the effects of redundancies.

There were some exceptional rises. Libanon Gold Mining jumped 108p to 986p. Somportex, the grocery and confectionery distributor, added 100p to its 850p price. British Aerospace, Flight Refuelling, and Ferranti were also among the day's gainers.

Oils showed the biggest sector rise—5.1 per cent. Chemicals were close behind with a 4.7 per cent increase.

Electricals, Motors, Brewers and Distillers, and Health and Household all rose more than 3 per cent.

Stock Exchange, Page 20

Thatcher rejects Gandhi's plea on immigration

BY RICHARD EVANS IN BOMBAY

MRS. MARGARET THATCHER, the Prime Minister, firmly resisted attempts by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Indian premier, to increase the number of Indian immigrants allowed into the UK. Discussions between the two showed that race relations is likely to continue as a major irritant between Britain and India.

The Prime Minister told a press conference that she had pointed out to Mrs. Gandhi that Britain was a country with 2.5m unemployed and a greater population density than India. In such circumstances it "did not seem reasonable" to increase the number of immigrants.

Britain's attitude to race relations, particularly following publication of the Nationality Bill now before Parliament and the eruption of riots in Brixton, has caused alarm in India. There are indications that Mrs. Thatcher has been taken aback by the strength of feeling.

Instead of concentrating almost exclusively on trade and international issues as she had hoped, the Prime Minister has had to spend much of her time seeking to counter what she regards as misconceptions of the British position.

Other areas where the two leaders have simply listened to each others' views and agreed to differ have been the supply of U.S. arms to Pakistan, which the Indian Government regards as a security threat, the Russian presence in Afghanistan, and the wisdom of backing a rapid deployment force for despatch to the Gulf or other strategic areas under threat. Mrs. Gandhi regards the rapid deployment idea as unnecessarily provocative.

These differences mean that Mrs. Thatcher has not succeeded in persuading Mrs. Gandhi to take a more favourable view of the policies of the Reagan administration and to detach herself from Soviet political and commercial influence.

British officials nevertheless regard the four days of talks as productive. There is hope of British involvement in a series of multi-million pound capital projects the Indians are about to launch.

The leaders are said to have developed a respect, if not a warmth, towards each other.

Mrs. Thatcher, in her effort to counter Indian suspicions on race, emphasised at her Press conference that the UK Government was anxious to maintain racial harmony in Britain.

"But if we allowed immigration at the previous rate, that harmony would be in danger," she said.

The Prime Minister's theme in answer to a number of

Continued on Back Page

Banks to draft proposals on rescheduling of Polish debt

BY PETER MONTAGNON, EUROMARKETS CORRESPONDENT

WESTERN commercial banks will soon start preparing draft proposals allowing Poland to defer repayment of about $3.1bn in debt falling due this year.

This was one of the main conclusions of a meeting between Poland and a task force of its Western bank creditors in London on Thursday.

The meeting also decided to recommend to banks involved with Poland that they should provide temporary assistance in respect of debts falling due in the current quarter. Poland's foreign debt stands at $24bn.

It was attended by 19 banks from 11 countries who have to report to national co-ordinating committees of all the banks involved.

A statement said the meeting had taken a positive stance in proposing a solution to the immediate problem of Poland's acute shortage of foreign exchange.

Poland had asked the banks to excuse temporarily the repayment of medium-term debt falling due this quarter, and not to run down their short-term deposits with Polish banks any further until the end of this year.

It was not clear from the statement whether the solution proposed by the task force embodied an acceptance of this request. Most banks are understood to have been basically favourable to the notion of a temporary repayment moratorium on medium-term debt.

However, some, including particularly Swiss banks, have been unwilling to accord the same treatment to short-term money market deposits.

The communique from Thursday's meeting suggests that the way is now clear for serious work to begin on a more permanent solution to the debt problem.

Poland's re-scheduling request, first made in early March, met an initially lukewarm response from the international banking community. It was only in early April, when the country's cash shortage became acute, that serious discussions got under way.

Until now, these have concentrated on short-term problems. But the establishment by the task force of a working group of banks to prepare draft proposals for a medium-term re-scheduling agreement, means that attention is now being given to a more permanent solution.

This comes at a time when Western governments are within sight of their own agreement with Poland to re-schedule about $4.4bn in official debt maturing this year.

Continued on Back Page

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES ON THURSDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISES

Treas. 2pc. Ind. Lkd.	£35¼	+ ½
Allied Breweries	75	+ 5
Allied Colloids	138	+ 11
British Aerospace	221	+ 20
British Sugar	316	+ 11
Cornell Dresses	100	+ 10
Davenports Brewery	130	+ 8
Ferranti	568	+ 18
Flight Refuelling	373	+ 18
GEC	702	+ 29
Glaxo	346	+ 12
Grand Met.	202	+ 7
GKN	178	+ 12
Henriques (A.)	24	+ 3
Hopkinsons	92	+ 7
ICI	282	+ 16
Kent (M.P.)	153	+ 7
Ladbroke	310	+ 8
Lucas	220	+ 11
Marler Estates	86	+ 8
Paterson Zochonis A	527	+ 17
Polly Peck	235	+ 17
Readicut	20½	+ 4
Somportex	950	+ 100
Tate & Lyle	180	+ 10
Thorn EMI	400	+ 18
Tilbury Contracting	250	+ 25
Tilling (T.)	192	+ 10
Turner & Newall	105	+ 7
Westland Aircraft	150	+ 8
Williams & James	90	+ 17
Woolworth (F.W.)	67	+ 3½
Shell	392	+ 28
CRA	252	+ 9
Charter Cons.	233	+ 10
Cons. Murch.	240	+ 10
Kloof Gold	£15¾	+ 1
Libanon	986	+ 108
RTZ	475	+ 12

FALL

Savoy A	186	— 12

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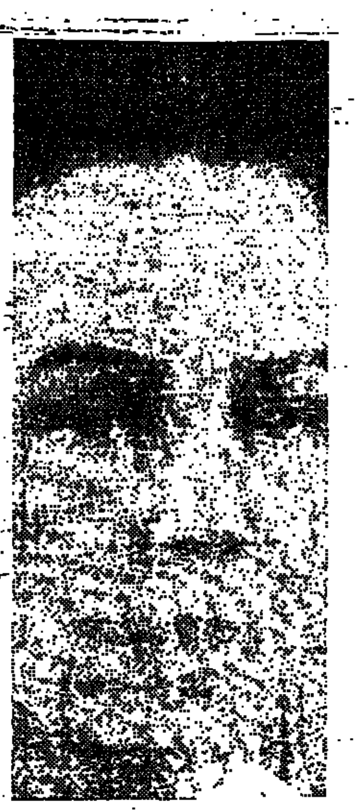
OVERSEAS NEWS

FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

The tigress and the apostle

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN PARIS


Mme Garaud: "Richelieu in skirts"

OF THE two no-hope, unofficial Gaullist contenders in the French Presidential elections, Mme. Marie-France Garaud wins hands down on television appeal. M. Michel Debre, although likely to pick up more votes, has the faded air of yesterday's man. Mme. Garaud, with her trim, Chanel-clad figure and severely-coiffured good looks, is a novelty: one of the new breed of right-wing women politicians whose interests lie in a muscular breed of foreign policy rather than social affairs.

Like Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, who also fascinates the French, she sees the world in black and white and speaks her mind with great—and sometimes vicious—clarity. She adds to this a withering contempt for all that she sees as soft and compromising in French political life—like, for instance, President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. M. Jacques Chaban-Delmas, the former Prime Minister, dubbed her "the tigress."

Mme. Garaud's streak of *feline ruthlessness has only* become visible to the French public in this election. Before that, she had exercised power behind the scenes, a "Richelieu in skirts" who made and broke reputations as one of the two most influential political advisers to President Georges Pompidou. She helped to scupper the Presidential hopes of M. Chaban-Delmas in 1974 (his vision of a "New Society" was regarded as Socialist whimsy) and then, like a female Pygmalion, manipulated her protége, M. Jacques Chirac, into the Prime Ministership and the Paris town hall.

The break with M. Chirac—she was apparently becoming too extremist for him and the party barons—left her with no political base. This is what she is now trying to reconstruct in a virtually single-handed campaign based mainly on a visceral antagonism to Communism *and what she regards as* "woolliness" in every sphere of French foreign affairs.

She has made a masterful transition from the wings to centre stage, becoming an overnight television star in a series of appearances in which she has mixed her talent for finding the jugular with winning feminine charm. But the relish with which she demolishes her victims does not conceal the fact that her politics exist more in destruction than in developing a coherent overall programme.

Unlike the 46-year-old Mme. Garaud, M. Debre, author of the Fifth Republic's constitution, overflows with *economic* policies. Aged 69, with a distinguished career already behind him (he was Gen. de Gaulle's first Prime Minister), his hopes of following his spiritual leader into the highest office have dwindled after his failure to rally the party to him last year. But this setback has not destroyed his Messianic conviction that the true apostolic Guallist succession descends through him.

M. Debre's prophetic warnings of doom, delivered with a tremolo fervour which occasionally explodes into exasperated rage, conjure up a vision of France given over to laxity and despair, sinking into banana *republic* economics, and lacking in backbone in the fight against world Communism.

Under him, France would be put back to worfl. He would protect industry where necessary, hit the Japanese where it hurts, impose a wages agreement, stand up to the Russians, and persuade his countrymen to reproduce more (in wedlock, of course).


President Giscard d'Estaing interrupted his election campaign schedule in Corsica to visit Notre Dame de Misericorde hospital, where he comforted the seven people injured by the airport bomb, inset. At the airport, firemmen and investigators search the debris

Canadian constitution move fails

By Victor Mackie in Ottawa

CANADA'S federal Government has rejected a compromise proposal by the Premiers of eight provinces for the reform of the country's constitution.

In a public ceremony to demonstrate their united front against Ottawa, the eight signed an agreement on Thursday calling for the "patriation" or the return from Britain of the British North America Act, which serves as Canada's constitution, but without the charter of rights proposed by Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the federal Prime Minister. The provinces believe that the charter of rights would impinge on their powers.

They also put forward an amending formula which would allow provinces to opt out of future amendments, including parts of a charter of rights, with a simple majority vote in the provincial legislatures.

Mr. Sterling Lyon, Premier of Manitoba, as chairman of the conference, described provincial proposals as simply "asking Britain only to send our constitution home," with an amending formula he described as "flexible and realistic."

However, the package was rejected by Mr. Jean Chretien, Federal Minister of Justice. In a hastily-called Press conference, he scoffed at the proposal as representing "sovereignty - association in instalments."

Mr. Rene Levesque, Premier of Quebec, strengthened by his recent electoral victory, had apparently insisted on re-drafting several key sections that other Premiers had agreed informally.

Later, Mr. Trudeau rejected firmly provincial proposals, and said they represented "a victory for those who want to move Canada slowly towards disintegration."

Oil funds lead record $17.5bn inflow into Japan

BY RICHARD C. HANSON IN TOKYO

A RECORD $17.5bn in foreign investment, much of it oil money, poured into Japan during the fiscal year ending in March, according to a balance of payments report released yesterday.

The inflow of capital to stocks and bonds was largely responsible for a sharp improvement in the country's overall balance of payments position. The overall payments deficit was nearly in equilibrium compared with a record deficit of $19bn in the previous year.

Last year's rush to invest in Japan coincided with a quick turnaround in the country's trade performance. This reduced the current account deficit to $7.129bn — or about half the previous year's record $13.853bn deficit.

But, the recovery has been clearly at the expense of Japan's major trading partners. On a customs clearance basis, the Japanese surplus with the U.S. widened to $7.6bn from $6bn. The surplus with the EEC *nearly doubled to $9.7bn* ($5.5bn).

The figures show that nearly one-fifth of Japan's total exports last year were cars and trucks, items which have raised tempers in both the U.S. and Europe.

Trade relations with Europe have reached the lowest ebb since before the second oil crisis. This is only partly due to the size of the overall deficit the EEC runs with Japan. The more vexing problem appears to be that highly competitive Japanese products have taken substantial shares, in a short period of time, of a number of highly sensitive markets. Those include cars, televisions and machine tools.

'$14bn Gulf loan for Iraq'

FOUR GULF ARAB oil producing states have pledged a total of $14bn in loans to Iraq, according to the Kuwait newspaper Al Rai Al Aam.

The newspaper report followed Wednesday's presentation to the Kuwaiti Parliament of a Government-sponsored bill to lend Iraq $2bn interest-free to rebuild its economy damaged in the seven-month war with Iran.

The Kuwaiti newspaper quoted sources in Abu Dhabi as saying Saudi Arabia had pledged $6bn, Kuwait $4bn, the nited Arab Emirates $3bn and Qatar $1bn.

Before the outbreak of war *last September,* Iraq was exporting 3.2m barrels a day and enjoyed a foreign exchange reserves estimated at $20-30bn. Because of damage to facilities and the closing of the Gulf route, Iraqi exports are now running at under 900,000 b/d through two pipelines to the Turkish and Syrian coasts.

In the next two months, Iraq plans to increase exports through the Trans-Syrian pipeline for an overall export level of 1.2m b/d.

Despite the war, Iraq has been keen to maintain its development effort at pre-war rates and has awarded a number of construction contracts. Imports of consumer *goods have not diminished.*

Chilean copper miners to strike

BY MARY-HELEN SPOONER IN SANTIAGO

APPROXIMATELY 10,000 workers at El Teniente, Chile's second largest copper mine and the largest underground mine *in the world, have voted to go* on strike beginning next Tuesday.

The vote showed that over 97 per cent of workers in six of El Teniente's eight labour organisations had rejected the Chilean state copper corporation, Codelco's, final offer of a 2 per cent wage rise over the next two years. Earlier, El Teniente's other two labour unions, which represent workers at the complex's smelting plant, voted to reject the offer.

El Teniente, located 82 km south of Santiago, produces 600 to 800 tonnes of fine copper daily and is one of four mines owned by Codelco. The company's spokesmen estimate losses of as much as $1.5m per day of strike, but indicated that workers would not be brought in from outside El Teniente to keep the mine functioning.

However, contract labourers working on the mine's expansion projects would not be affected by the strike.

Early last year El Teniente workers staged a two-week strike following the failure of negotiations with Codelco management over a new one-year labour contract. According to Chilean labour law, workers may hold strikes of no more *than 60 days' duration.* After this period they must either accept management's final offer or consider themselves dismissed.

Rome to reduce borrowing by £2.2bn

By James Buxton in Rome

THE Italian Government has finally announced, in diluted form, its long-awaited economic measures designed to complement the devaluation of the lira and tightening of the credit squeeze *nearly a month* ago. They are aimed at reducing inflation and encouraging exports.

The measures, decided by the Cabinet late on Thursday, will cut the public borrwoing requirement by L5,000bn (£2.2bn) by a mixture of spending cuts, higher charges and higher contributions.

There is to be substantial financial help for the steel *industry, including the provision* of L2,000bn worth of new funds for the debt-ridden state holding company Finsider, and assistance for other industries, as well as measures to help export promotion.

But the Government has put off, at least until next month, increases in electricity and telephone charges, and petrol prices. It has also ensured that the higher charges it is *imposing for health services* and the higher contributions for social security do not fall on the lower paid.

This has been done in the continuing hope of reaching an agreement with the trade unions on modifications to the Scala mobile wage indexation system. The three major unions failed, after more than a week of intense negotiations, to agree on a common position on this issue.

But at a meeting with Sig. Arnaldo Forlani, the Prime Minister, and his economic ministers on Wednesday night, the two sides agreed to meet again early in May.

For the moment, however, inter-union relations are bad because of 10 days of arguments in which the Communist Party oriented CGIL union refused to shift from its hardline on the Scala mobile.

After a two-hour meeting, Sig. Berlinguer announced the Communist Party's opposition to both the Government's measures and to the continued existence of the present administration.

Communist opposition may bode ill for the smooth passage of the new measures through Parliament. The only good news for the Government was a 1.4 per cent drop in the inflation rate in March. But the annual *rate is still 20.1* per cent and a record increase in wages caused by the triggering of the indexation mechanism is certain next month.

Polish farmers win fight for union

BY CHRISTOPHER BOBINSKI IN WARSAW

THE POLISH authorities have finally agreed to recognise the right *of the country's 3.5m private farmers to organise* their own trade union. The farmers' union will be registered *by May 10, according to an* agreement signed yesterday in the city of Bydgoszcz.

The concession came after a final round of talks between Mr. Stanislaw Ciosek, the Minister responsible for relations with the trade unions, and private farmers who have been occupying a building there since March 16.

This means that the Polish Party leader, Mr. Stanislaw Kania, who has been strongly opposed to the union, has been forced by public pressure to change *his* stance. The organisers of the union claim a membership of around 1m, and they have been seeking registration *since the autumn.* The breakthrough came at the end of March, when Solidarity included the demands in a list of postulates backed by a call for a general strike.

On March 30, Solidarity negotiators led by Mr. Lech Walesa, forced the Government to agree to the demands. It had also been vigorously pressed by the head of the Catholic Church, Cardinal Stepan Wiszynski, at a three-hour meeting with the Premier, General Wojciech Jaruzelski.

One powerful opponent of the recognition has been the Soviet Union. Moscow claims the union will minimize any hopes *of* cutting down the private farming sector in favour of the state sector, which farms 20 per cent of the land.

But the Polish leadership evidently decided that the need to avoid further conflict over the issue and to *boost farming output* outweighed the doctrinal opposition put up by Poland's neighbours. The decision will improve the political climate in the countryside, and, taken together with recent considerable price increases for agricultura goods paid by the state to far mers, should increase output.

Such growth is essential i consumer food supplies are t be increased and dependence o *grain imports, funded wit* costly hard currency credits, b reduced.

Planners are also hoping tha workers, especially those wh are in industry and hold land *will leave their industrial jo* and concentrate on farming. Th decision to register the unio will create the necessary feelin of stability for the future, fo such a shift back to the land t be a realistic prospect.

Steel curbs agreement likely

BY JOHN WYLES IN BRUSSELS

LEADING European steelmakers remain confident of agreeing on voluntary production curbs following a further meeting in Luxembourg this week.

Eurofer, the organisation which groups the European Community's 15 largest steelmakers, said that draft conclusions covering the main body *of the emerging agreement may* be sent to the European Commission in the next few days.

The quotas under negotiation among the steelmakers cover several product categories. Before the most recent meeting last Thursday, the companies had agreed on quotas for heavy plate and heavy sections and were close to a deal on the largest product group, coils and rolled strip.

The aim of the cuts is to raise and to stabilise prices which have been under constant pressure because of price cutting.

At a meeting on April 9, Eurofer agreed to aim for a 10 to 15 per cent increase in prices from July.

● Reuter reports from Ijmuiden: Estel Hoogovens, the Dutch steel operations of Estel Hoesch-Hoogovens, plans another six weeks short-time working at is Ijmuiden plant from April 26.

Bombers strike in West Berlin

A bomb exploded at a West Berlin research institute and terrorist sympathisers clashed with police in three other cities yesterday following the death of Sigurd Debus, a Red Army guerrilla on prison hunger strike. Hours after Debus's death, 25 jailed terrorists from the Red Army faction and the Second of June Movement ended a two-month hunger strike, AP-DJ reports from Bonn.

Zaire Premier quits

Mr. Nguza Karl-I-Bond, Zaire's Prime Minister, resigned yesterday.

Bermuda pay protest

About 1.100 Bermuda Government and hospital workers are on strike in protest at pay conditions, Our Bermuda Correspondent reports.

Palestinians killed

Israeli troops on the Lebanese border yesterday shot down a hot-air balloon carrying two Palestinians. Both were shot dead, Our Tel Aviv Correspondent reports.

U.S. 'should revive missile cover system'

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

THE U.S. should reactivate its sole, and now abandoned, anti-ballistic missile system to protect a big early warning radar site in North Dakota, Mr. Caspar Weinberger, Defence Secretary, has been advised by his top strategic expert.

Mr. Seymour Zeiberg, the deputy Under-Secretary for Space and Strategic Systems, said yesterday no decision had been made. He had merely "floated" the idea, which would not involve necessarily breaking the 1972 ABM treaty between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

That permitted each superpower ABM systems at two sites. Two years later this was amended to one site, with the Russians choosing to protect *Moscow and the U.S. its* Minuteman force at Grand Forks, North Dakota.

The Grand Forks ABM system operated for less than a year, before being closed in 1976. The Zeiberg plan would revive it more for a nearby air force radar warning site than to provide cover for the minutemen missiles.

However, U.S. revival of its ABMs could have major implications. It would change U.S. policy of relying solely on offensive weapons as a deterrent to the Russians.

Botha acts on Tutu after U.S. envoy leaves

BY BERNARD SIMON IN JOHANNESBURG

THE South African Government has carried out its threat to withdraw the passport of Bishop Desmond Tutu, the controversial general secretary of the South African Council of Churches. The Bishop's passport was confiscated by security police on Thursday, a week after he returned from North America and Europe.

Significantly, the action was delayed until a few hours after Dr. Chester Crocker, the U.S. *Assistant Secretary of State-designate for African Affairs,* had left the country. During his absence from South Africa, Bishop Tutu angered Government leaders by advocating economic sanctions against the country and by comparing the Government's policies to those in Nazi Germany.

The Prime Minister, Mr. P. W. Botha, told several election rallies that Bishop Tutu's passport would be withdrawn on his return. The Government has frequently said it regards a passport as a privilege

Dr. Crocker spent two days in Pretoria during which he had lengthy discussions on the SWA-Namibian issue with the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pik Botha.

Mr. Crocker and Mr. Botha described their talks as "useful," but it seems that little progress was made towards drawing up a definite settlement plan for Namibian independence.

Dr. Crocker did not meet Mr. P. W. Botha, who was reportedly *offended by the* American's earlier statement that he did not equate the black nationalist South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) with Russian imperialism.

Hugh O'Shaughnessy assesses the unexpected reaction to the Anglo-Guatemala accord

Why diplomatic triumph led to riots in Belize

THE PATIENT diplomacy of Mr. Nicholas Ridley, the junior minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, paid off last month when Britain and Guatemala came to agreement on the future of Belize. But no one in Britain or Central America imagined the agreement would produce the effects it did.

Mr. Ridley had triumphantly *convinced the Guatemalans* to recognise what they should have recognised decades ago, that their long-standing but legally shaky claim to sovereignty over much of the British colony of Belize (formerly British Honduras) would have been much better buried and forgotten about. Guatemalan arguments about what Charles III of Spain may or may not have intended in the late 18th century, when the whole region was part of a declining Spanish empire, had to give way before present-day reality: 140,000 Belizeans, who had lived under the British *flag* all their lives, wanted independence and desired no part of the murderous political instability of their Guatemalan neighbours.

They wanted to continue trading and growing their traditional crops of citrus and sugar in a small country about the size of Wales.

Whitehall expected spasmodic rioting in Guatemala City as ultranationalists there protested at what they considered a sell-out of Guatemala's rights to Belize by the Government of Gen. Romeo *Lucas,* and quiet satisfaction in Belize, where the population could look forward at long last to independence without too much of a threat from their Guatemalan neighbours.

> ‘The Guatemalans looked on in bewilderment at why their neighbours should protest at getting the best of a bargain’

The Belizean voters in the under-populated territory, Britain's last soverign foothold on the American continent, had in November returned to power Mr. George Price, their long-serving Prime Minister, and his People's United Party, with a big majority of 13 of the 18 seats in the House of Representatives in Belmopan, the colony's tiny, futuristic capital.

In the event, Guatemala City stayed calm, recording only the usual toll of nightly political murders—the virtual stock-in-trade of that turbulent capital—and little popular interest in Belize.

It was Belize City, the slummy port surrounded by mangrove swamps which is the territory's only major population centre, which erupted in protest strikes and riots against the terms of the British agreement with Guatemala.

The British garrison of 1,700, stationed in the colony to ensure its safety against Guatemalan incursions, had to guard strategic points while the lightly armed Belize Defence Force took to the streets to back up the police and prevent the protests getting out of control.

While the Belizeans rioted, the Guatemalans looked on in bewilderment, puzzled at why their neighbours should protest at apparently getting the best of a bargain which was likely to bring them to independence by the end of this year.

Mr. Ridley had virtually ensured that Belize would move to independence by September and had added that British troops would remain to assist the Belize Defence Force if Whitehall perceived any continuing threat from the Guatemalans.

The strikes and looting have died away in Belize, a constitutional conference was concluded in London last week (April 14), and Britain and Guatemala meet next month to tie up the loose ends left in last month's bilateral *outline* agreement.

In London the inquest goes on about the rioting. Was it caused by real *objections* to the minor concessions Britain made to allow Gen. Romeo Lucas's regime in Guatemala City to save face?

Was it because the local traders did not want to face the prospect of the eventual withdrawal of British troops after independence and the loss of revenue which that implied? Or was it just that Guatemala has been such a bogeyman for so long for the Belizeans that they would reject any deal with the neighbouring *dictatorship,* whatever the terms?

Whatever the reason, Mr. Ridley still intends to meet the representatives of the Guatemalan regime next months to complete the Anglo-Guatemalan agreement and Britain still wants to divest itself of its less-than-prosperous Central American colony before the autumn is out.


Mr. Price:

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Quarterly figure for construction up by 14%

By Andrew Taylor

CONSTRUCTION orders in Britain rose by 14 per cent in the three months to the end of February compared with the previous quarter according to Government figures published on Thursday.

Orders, however, were 2 per cent lower than in the same period a year ago.

The improvement reflects major contracts placed for the two nuclear power stations at Torness and Heysham. Orders for private sector work also rose during the three months.

The power station orders, worth £330m, raised figures for public works by 49 per cent compared with the previous quarter. They were 26 per cent higher than in the same period a year ago.

Private sector orders, relatively buoyant during 1980, increased during the quarter by 12 per cent compared with the previous three months and by 20 per cent compared with the same period last year.

Public housing orders were 31 per cent lower than in the previous three months and 54 per cent lower than a year ago. However, there have been signs lately that the climate for private house building is improving.

Private housing orders were 12 per cent lower than 12 months ago, but have risen by 27 per cent compared with the previous three months.

London and Counties officials sentenced

TWO OFFICIALS of London and Counties Securities Group, the fringe bank which collapsed at the beginning of the 1974 banking crisis, were given suspended jail terms at the Old Bailey, ending a £5m fraud trial.

Fraud squad officers from Scotland Yard spent seven years on the case, which arose from the group's sudden failure in 1973.

Nine people, including some senior officials, have been brought before the Old Bailey in three separate trials.

Gerald Caplan, 49, a barrister, who was the group's chairman and managing director, and was named as an alleged fraud conspirator in the Old Bailey trials, is still in Los Angeles awaiting the outcome of his appeal against extradition.

Sentencing the two London and County officials, Mr. Justice Talbot said they were "dragged down" by Caplan.

He told Brian Kendall, 47, and Ian Green, 43: "I am quite satisfied each of you took part in the conspiracy because you were under the influence of a stronger man."

Kendall, of Hatfield, Herts, and Green, of Whetstone, North London, who were found guilty by a jury of conspiring with Caplan to defraud, were given 18-month jail sentences, suspended for two years.

Woolf Perry, 58, allegedly Caplan's right-hand man, of Mill Hill, North London, was taken ill as the jury acquitted him of conspiring with Caplan to defraud.

Two senior men were given jail sentences, one of them suspended, when they changed their pleas to guilty earlier in the trial.

Arthur Pepperell, 53, a financial consultant, was jailed for two years after admitting the theft of £2.4m from London and Counties, as well as forgery, falsifying a document and obtaining pecuniary advantage. Brian McMenemy, 42, Caplan's personal assistant, was given 18 months, suspended for two years.

Tory challenge on petrol tax rise

BY IVOR OWEN

GOVERNMENT WHIPS have been warned to expect a new challenge, when the Commons re-assembles after the Easter recess, from rebel Tory backbenchers opposed to a 20p increase in the duty on petrol and derv imposed in the Budget.

The challenge will be mounted when the relevant clause in the Finance Bill is considered with the other most strongly contested provisions, at the committee stage, taken on the floor of the House.

The Tory rebels want the increase in duty halved to 10p. An amendment to achieve this has been tabled already.

Treasury Ministers have been told by the whips that most of the pressure is being exerted by MPs from rural areas, where the decline in public transport has left no alternative to car travel. If their votes follow their sentiments, the Government could be in danger of being defeated.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, seems to have made little impact with his repeated warnings that all the £1.2bn, which the 20p increase is expected to produce in a full year, is needed and that there is no room for a concession.

There is little evidence so far to support ministerial hopes for a change of heart among the rebels.

The rebels claim to have new recruits. They say they are in a position to cause more damage than that inflicted at the end of the Budget debate, when, with eight Tory backbenchers voting with the Opposition and more than 20 abstaining, the Government's majority slumped to 14.

In another gesture of defiance, the leading rebels have also urged the Chancellor to consider that, should the amendment limiting the increase in the duty to 10p be carried, it could not be implemented until the Finance Bill becomes law in July.

By then, the 20p increase would have been in operation for more than four months, and the "hole in the Budget" would be significantly smaller than the £600m figure which has featured so prominently in the arguments used by the Chancellor so far.

M3 increases by 0.7%

BY PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

STERLING M3, the broadly defined money supply, increased by 0.7 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis in the month to mid-March, Bank of England figures show.

In the last three months sterling M3 has grown at an annual rate of 9.7 per cent compared with the target range of 6 to 10 per cent for the period from February 1981 to April 1982.

The narrower monetary aggregates (especially non-interest bearing components), have been rising faster than sterling M3 in recent months following the cut in interest rates.

But M3 rose by 1.3 per cent last month. This was bigger than the increase in Sterling M3 resulting from a £474m jump in UK residents' deposits in foreign currencies.

Among the counterparts to sterling M3, central government borrowing was £775m, seasonally adjusted. About a third of this was lent to the rest of the public sector, whose borrowing from other sources, net of non-bank debt sales, was £110m.

Net purchases of central government debt by non-bank financial institutions and by the public were very large at £1.77bn with net purchases of gilts £1.35bn. National savings sales were £424m, making a total of £1.17bn in the last three months.

Lending in sterling to the private sector jumped by £1.16bn last month. This was probably distorted by arbitrage, that is borrowing in order to redeposit at a profit elsewhere in the banking system. Bank acceptances held outside the banking system fell by a further £130m.

On balance, sterling lending last month seems to have been somewhat above the trend of recent months, according to the Bank.

Lending in sterling overseas rose by £614m, and combined with negative external and foreign currency influences, to push up sterling M3.

MONETARY GROWTH

Change in month to mid-March

	£m	per cent
M1	+ 281	+1.0
Sterling M3	+ 472	+0.7
M3	+ 946	+1.3
Bank lending to UK private sector	+1,164	—
Sales of Government debt to non-banks	1,772	—
Domestic credit expansion	892	—

Source: Bank of England.

British 'superbike' launched

BY JOHN GRIFFITHS

THE YOUNG woman in the red satin boxer shorts, and almost a windcheater top, briefly scored a couple of notable points for Italian makers Piaggio in the struggle for attention at the Press day of the International Motor-Cycle Show, which opened at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, yesterday.

But in the end she was no match for the purple bow-tied figure of Lord Alexander Hesketh—or rather, the new 1,000cc "super bike" launched by the Hesketh organisation yesterday in a bid to dent Japanese and other importers' dominance of the most lucrative sector of the UK motor-cycle market.

Through Hesketh Motorcycles, the company he set up last year, Lord Hesketh has spent £530,000 bringing to the market place the first new all-British motor-cycle for 12 years.

Lord Hesketh, aged 30, is the company's deputy chairman. Sir Barrie Heath, the former group chairman of Guest, Keen and Nettlefold, is its non-executive chairman.

The project is backed by £1.3m raised in the City last year by a fully subscribed offer of 1.8m ordinary 50p shares at 80p per share.

Series production of the Hesketh V1000, a twin-cylinder machine capable of 130 mph, is not due to start until June, at a 25,000 sq ft factory at Daventry, Northamptonshire. But the examples at the show met a favourable reception. Lord Hesketh claimed to be confident of capturing an initial 5 to 7 per cent of the UK superbike market, estimated at 12,000 a year between now and 1983.

Hesketh Motorcycles also plans to export to the Continent where about 50,000 such machines are sold each year.

The Hesketh V1000 will sell at £4,495—at the very top of the superbike price list. Lord Hesketh insists that the machine represents "an amalgam of the very best in traditional and advanced British motor-cycle engineering."

Mr. Alex Haley, president of the Motorcycle Association, says he foresees a significant resurgence of a UK industry making machines rather than components and accessories on which it is currently based, and which earned about £30m in exports last year.

The Hesketh project was given a "good luck" send off by Mr. Norman Fowler, the Transport Secretary, who also announced a national motor-cycle safety programme.

The British Motorcycle Safety Foundation, to be funded by the industry through a levy on sales which is expected to provide £1m in its first year, will aim to promote safe riding through expanded training schemes.

Cycling towards a bright future

BY MICHAEL STRUTT

A headline in the Daily Telegraph once read: "Future of the wheel assured." The same could be said of the bicycle, and the current show at Birmingham — running until April 21 at the National Exhibition Centre — provides ample evidence for that.

Although the UK industry produced 1.25m machines last year and sold only 1m, the bicycle is flourishing as a means of sport, transport and and recreation.

Mail order and cheap imported folding bikes have eaten heavily into the traditional market for road machines. But new machines and new improvements, some long overdue, are creating new markets. Overall demand for bikes is healthy, especially as fares and petrol costs continue to rise. And cheap bikes have put many new riders on the road.

The cycle trade is hoping for 40,000 to 50,000 visitors to the show.

One improved component which will gladden the heart of anyone who has cycled in heavy rain is a new pair of brake blocks from Raleigh. The blocks have leather inserts which are said to transform the braking efficiency in the wet on machines with steel rims and they can be fitted as replacements for ordinary blocks. They are reaching dealers now at a cost of about £2.

One Italian children's bike on display has a car-type disc brake fitted to its front wheel and there have been a range of attempts to improve the standard side-pull brake on sports machines.

For racing cyclists, aerodynamic oval frame tubing is now the vogue. It was Reynolds which 80 years ago invented the butting process to create tubes thicker at each end for strength and thinner in the middle to save weight. Reynolds' new 531 Speedstream oval tubes using the same principle retains the company's pre-eminence in this field in spite of the advent of aluminium, carbon fibre and other materials.

The presence at Birmingham of Friends of the Earth and the cycle campaign groups suggests that the bicycle is to be taken seriously from now on, just as the car has been for decades. One of the clearest pointers to the future is a pair of bikes on the stand of W. R. Pashley, a small, Stratford-upon-Avon manufacturer which includes Unicycles and delivery bikes among its list. Pashley is showing a power-assisted bicycle and tricycle incorporating an electric motor that can be switched in while pedalling to provide extra push.

Wedgwood cuts 600 jobs at two Stoke plants

LEADING POTTERY manufacturer Wedgwood is to make a further 600 redundant, bringing the total to about 1,600.

The group is to close two earthenware plants in Stoke on Trent and concentrate production at other sites in the area.

The company said the redundancies were part of a programme to reduce costs to keep prices competitive.

"Unfortunately the scheme is likely to result in some 600 redundancies within the division. It is hoped to reduce this figure as the scheme is implemented in consultation with the trade union."

Standard Telephones and Cables is to close its factory at Enniskillen in Northern Ireland with the loss of more than 300 jobs. This is in addition to the 350 job cuts STC announced in January at its main plant at Monkstown, near Belfast.

The Enniskillen plant, which manufacturers the older electro-mechanical type of telephone switching equipment, will cease production by the end of next year.

The Northern Ireland Department of Commerce is helping STC to find a tenant for the factory. A brochure in five languages will be distributed by the department's overseas staff.

About 70 jobs are likely to be lost at Donaghadee Carpets, a Carrington Viyella subsidiary, which employs almost 400 in County Down.

Carreras Rothman, Britain's third largest cigarette manufacturer, is to shed about 200 jobs at its Essex factories and is speeding up a plan for 400 voluntary redundancies at its Belfast plant by the end of the year.

Most of the Essex redundancies will be caused by the closure of the small Rayleigh factory. The company hopes redundancies will be voluntary.

Rayleigh is a satellite of the Basildon factory where faster machinery and new methods of group working have been introduced with union agreement.

Under a scheme begun 18 months ago, the voluntary redundancies at Belfast were to have been spread over four years.

The Imperial Tobacco Company and Gallaher, the two leading cigarette manufacturers, have put 13,500 production workers on unscheduled holiday or short-time working because of the accelerated fall in demand following the Budget.

But Carreras says none of its staff is on short time and that there is no similarity between its redundancy decisions and the problems at Imperial and Gallaher.

Since more than half Carreras' UK production is sold overseas it was less affected than other companies by the tax increases.

Vauxhall is to axe a further 200 jobs in a plan to step up van production.

The redundancies, which will all be voluntary, are in addition to the 1,600 jobs being lost at the Luton factory as part of the company's aim to reduce its entire workforce by 5,700.

Concern at MacGregor role in privatisation

By Alan Pike

UNION LEADERS are concerned that Mr. Ian MacGregor's chairmanship of the British Steel Corporation is to be judged by his ability to return state assets to the private sector.

Mr. Bill Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said yesterday it was "most surprising" that the Government had made the increased privatisation of the industry part of the criteria for assessing Mr. MacGregor's performance.

Under the arrangements on which Lazard Freres, the New York investment bank, released Mr. MacGregor last year to serve a three-year term as BSC chairman, an independent review committee has to monitor the corporation's progress. This will determine how much of a possible £1.15m—in addition to £675,000 already paid—Lazard Freres receives in compensation for losing Mr. MacGregor.

The extent to which BSC has been privatised during Mr. MacGregor's chairmanship is one of the four main areas which the review committee will take into account under criteria announced by the Department of Industry this week.

"We were told last year that Mr. MacGregor's job was to make BSC more successful," said Mr. Sirs. "There was no indication that he had been told one of his objectives must be to transfer public assets to the private sector."

Talks have been in progress for some months between BSC and several private steel producers on the creation of a jointly-owned company to rationalise engineering steel production. This is worrying trade unionists in both sectors—private-sector workers believe BSC is trying to drive their companies out of business, while those in BSC see it as a step towards denationalisation.

BL warns on sports car output

By Arthur Smith, Midlands Correspondent

BL has warned union leaders that production of the TR7 sports car might be suspended indefinitely from September.

Production of TR-7s and Rover saloons is halted at Solihull because of a strike by 1,500 assembly workers who walked out last Wednesday in protest at disciplinary action against a worker who refused a management instruction to change jobs.

The company last night insisted that no decision about the future of the TR7 had been taken. Yet the warning given to shop stewards could herald the complete withdrawal of BL from the once lucrative sports car market.

Such a move would undermine BL's sales network in the important U.S. market and raise a question-mark about the future of 1,100 jobs at its Speke plant, Liverpool, which supplies components for the TR7.

BL said that because of a review currently under way of TR7 production and sales, component suppliers had been told it was impossible to give details of output schedules beyond August.

The date is significant because sports car sales are highest in the summer months. But it is clear that there are problems in the U.S. market, which accounts for about 60 per cent of annual TR7 output. High exchange rates mean significant losses on TR7 sales.

Last year, Triumph sports car sales in the U.S. dropped from 14,939 to little more than 10,300.

Police keep low profile in Brixton

By Lisa Wood

Police were keeping a very low profile in Brixton yesterday, but New Scotland Yard said there were adequate police available should further trouble arise.

Police leave for the whole of the Metropolitan Police area has been cancelled over the holiday weekend, it is believed.

There were few people in Railton Road yesterday where the riots started last weekend. The only large assembly in Brixton was a church procession comprising a multi-racial congregation carrying a large wooden cross and praying for peace.

The Brixton Defence Committee, which was established last weekend to co-ordinate responses to the riots by Brixton's community leaders, made no statement yesterday. On Thursday, it announced that it had no intention of holding a rally in Brixton this Sunday.

London ambulance workers call for national strike plan

BY PAULINE CLARK, LABOUR STAFF

LEADERS OF London's 2,200 ambulance workers have called on their unions to start national strike action if they are refused a substantial improvement on a 6 per cent pay offer which has been tied to Government cash limits for Health Service pay rises this year.

The capital's 78 ambulance service shop stewards reached their decision at a three-hour meeting on Thursday after receiving "a massive" vote rejecting the offer as a result of their own ballot of London members.

The rejection is the first indication that ambulance workers may be ready to become the first Health Service group to take on the Government in a national confrontation over pay.

A country wide ballot of Britain's 18,000 ambulance drivers and operational staff is being organised by the four main unions representing the group. The result will not be known until later this month.

The national ballot is making it clear that, if ambulance workers reject the offer, they will effectively sanction industrial action. It is believed that a substantial number of members in the 13,000 strong ambulance group represented by the National Union of Public Employees have indicated their intention to reject the offer.

The results of the London ballot showed 371 votes in favour of the cash limits offer and 1,631 against. Of the vote for acceptance, 170 favoured the option of a 6 per cent rise over 12 months, while 201 preferred the alternative offered of 7.5 per cent over 15 months.

A ballot on a similar offer to hospital ancillary workers, the largest Health Service group, resulted last week in majority acceptance of the 15-month deal.

The London Ambulance service conveners said they would call on negotiators to try to secure a substantial improvement in the latest offer should the national ballot also reject the alternatives.

The motion passed by the conveners said that, should the national negotiators then fail to secure an improved offer, "we call on unions to declare an official dispute. Such action should take the form of 24-hour strikes on a national basis."

The ambulance workers are asking for a pay rise which would recognise them as a third arm of the emergency service, alongside police and firemen. Police last September received a 21 per cent pay increase. Firemen were awarded an 18.8 per cent rise in two stages last November.

Union clash likely over state funds for ballots

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER, LABOUR EDITOR

THE STAGE has been set for a bitter controversy at the Engineering Union's annual policy-making conference at the end of the month over the use of Government money to fund election ballots.

Six of the 26 divisions of the engineering section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) have tabled motions calling on the leadership not to take the money.

Many others want the union to oppose "in its entirety" the legislation in which the provision of state aid is enacted—the Employment Act, 1980.

But the union's seven-man executive has, as expected, put down its motion for debate asking for authority to apply for the money for internal elections, of which there is a particularly large crop this autumn.

The executive's motion asks the committee to say that there is "no objectionable condition" attached to the Act's provision, and that it does not impinge on the union's rules.

AUEW leaders expect to command a majority of the delegates to the national committee meeting in Eastbourne—perhaps 48 of the 91—and therefore to get the necessary approval.

If they are right, the union could face suspension from the TUC, many of whose affiliates see the ballot money issue as a test of any union's attitude to the rest of the legislation.

The Bank, Insurance and Finance Union last week voted at its annual conference not to take the money.

Another important political issue at the conference will be the future of the Labour Party's system of electing a leader and deputy leader.

The AUEW's moderates hope to convert the union's 40 per cent stake in the electoral college into one of 50 per cent for the Parliamentary Labour Party. But the only two motions down on the agenda on this issue say MPs should get no more than 30 per cent of the college, as at present.

If the union is to cast its 900,000 block vote for the change which the executive wants at the autumn party conference, then both these motions will have to be defeated. A similar problem confronts the moderate Shopworkers Union at its conference the same week.

The rest of the agenda is dominated by the state of the economy and unemployment. On pay, two divisions are asking for the national engineering agreement, which sets minimum rates, to be dropped entirely in favour of plant bargaining.

Others seek the present minimum skilled rate of £79 a week to be increased to sums ranging from £110 to £150 a week, and the unskilled rate of £56.80 to be raised to £100 a week.

Print workers accept 10%

PRINT WORKERS in the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades have voted to accept a 10 per cent pay offer from the British Printing Industries Federation.

SOGAT, with 110,000 members, is the largest of the three print unions. The others—the National Graphical Association and the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media personnel—are balloting their members on the offer.

Under the deal, which covers the general printing trade, workers will receive rises on minimum basic rates of between £6.60 and £7.50 a week, taking the top rate to £87.50.

Mr. Bill Keys, SOGAT general secretary, said the settlement states that no full-time employee shall earn less than £74 for a standard working week.

Under the national agreement, hours were reduced to 39 from January and will go down again from July 5, 1982, to 37½.

Planning strategy urged

BY JOHN LLOYD, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR PARTY and trade union leaders have revived proposals to establish a National Planning Commission, under a future Labour Government, to take charge of British industrial policy and co-ordinate the work of other planning agencies such as the National Economic Development Council.

The commission, first proposed in Labour's programme of 1976 but never developed by the then Labour Government, is seen as a prerequisite for reversing the UK's relative decline, and creating employment in at least some sectors.

This new approach to planning was discussed at a meeting on Thursday of the Trades Union Congress-Labour Party liaison committee's subcommittee on industrial democracy and planning. The two issues of industrial democracy and planning are seen as twin pillars on which a future Labour strategy would be built.

A document laying out a new approach to planning which formed the agenda of Thursday's meeting, and on which there was general agreement, suggested that both the commission and the National Investment Bank should play crucial roles. The bank, the document says, "will clearly need close links with the commission and the National Enterprise Board."

The paper—drawn up by the sub-committee's joint secretaries, Mr. David Lea, assistant secretary of the TUC, and Mr. Geoff Bish, head of the Labour Party's research department—assumes that the next Labour Government will:

- Pursue a macro-economic strategy of reflation as part of a return to low levels of unemployment;
- Institute joint control of "wider areas of decision-making in the enterprise".

The two key tasks for planning, it argues, are in the shorter term to eliminate constraints to economic expansion—for example finance, manpower, raw materials and infrastructure—and in the longer term, to reverse industrial decline.

"This will inevitably involve the re-structuring of sections of British industry, and will be geared to improving Britain's industrial performance in the face of international competition. Many of our main competitors, such as France and Japan, have a detailed and effective planning system which has allowed successful concentration on particular sectors of the world market."

The document does not argue for wholly centralised planning, saying that this "might be inconsistent with the need to respond rapidly to changes in the industrial and economic environment."

Christian Tyler looks at the Sandwell closed shop affair

The political and industrial effects of Joanna Harris

OF ALL trade union issues, none has excited so much political passion in recent years as the closed shop, involving as it does an explicit conflict between individual freedom and collective organisation.

Two contradictory events this week have brought the closed shop back into the news. The first was the decision on Wednesday night by members of the National and Local Government Officers' Association at Sandwell in the West Midlands to ask their union to wind up their closed shop agreement with the local council.

The second—scarcely reported—was the publication of evidence that some companies are setting up closed shops without regard to the Employment Act, 1980.

Local authority closed shops are prone to come and go according to which political party is in control. In this respect they are not typical of closed shops in industry generally, which have spread regardless of legislation in the past 10 years and which are now estimated to embrace about 45 per cent of manual workers.

The Sandwell decision is unusual in that it follows a highly-publicised and successful national campaign on behalf of a council worker who lost her job when she refused to join the union. Miss Joanna Harris, a 21-year-old chicken inspector, is the Jeanne D'Arc of those on the Right of the political spectrum who argue that the Government's legislation does not go far enough, and who wish to embarrass Mr. James Prior, the Secretary for Employment.

Miss Harris's campaign was supported by the Freedom Association, which as the National Association for Freedom last achieved national fame for its part in the Grunwick affair. The association duly conferred on Miss Harris a "freedom award" in the presence of the Prime Minister at a dinner last week.

The Sandwell episode may compel other local councils and other branches of Nalgo to think twice before signing closed shop agreements. There is some evidence that the Employment Act has already had that effect more generally.

On the other hand, Nalgo membership has actually been rising — against the trend — as town hall staff seek refuge against unaccustomed job insecurity caused by the Government's financial disciplines.

Closed shops for manual workers' unions — and the Sandwell agreement includes three of those—are not likely to be much dented by the Harris case. Employers, and particularly personnel managers in industry, continue to exhibit an historic ambivalence towards the institution: they dislike it on ethical grounds, but like it on industrial grounds since it brings stability into bargaining.

If the Sandwell case has any fall-out, it is more likely to be political than industrial, especially if Miss Harris does not get her job back. The new Act—which bears Mr. Prior's stamp and accurately reflects industry's own ambivalence—considerably extends the grounds on which non-union members can claim unfair dismissal, while leaving the lawfulness of closed shops untouched.

Organisations like the Freedom Association and the Institute of Directors, as well as many backbench Conservative MPs, may well feel that Miss Harris has shifted the balance of the political argument in their favour.

The importance of that shift, if it exists, is that both sides of industry are presently being consulted on a Green Paper which includes a reference to the closed shop issue, and the Prime Minister has not ruled out consequent legislation on any trade union issue in the next Parliamentary session.

This is a mute reference to the failure of the 1971 Conservative legislation to make any dent on the closed shop, which during the short life of that legislation simply went underground.

History may be repeating itself. A survey on the effects of the Employment Act conducted by the Institute of Directors reveals that although closed shop activity is generally low at present, a number of unnamed companies in the South have concluded agreements without recourse to the secret ballot enjoined on them by the Act.

The Act says that unless a secret ballot has been conducted in which at least 80 per cent of the workers agree to a closed shop, those who are dismissed for not joining the relevant union will be able to plead at an industrial tribunal that they were unfairly dismissed.

The Labour-controlled Sandwell council, if it had been negotiating its closed shop after the Act came into force last October rather than before, might have employed the 80 per cent rule—or it might not. As things were, the Sandwell shop was introduced last September and its Nalgo members voted by only 810 to 671 in favour of it.

Cases like that of Miss Harris, or that of the British Rail employees now being fought out in the European Court, are relatively rare. In the great majority of instances unions do not insist on actual 100 per cent membership, extending some licence to convinced non-union members.

That, of course, has not prevented the closed shop from remaining—as it presumably always will—one of the most hotly contested issues in British political life.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS

Bulls with the upper hand

LONDON
ONLOOKER

THE CITY'S first reaction to a Budget is often wrong—and this year is no exception. When the Chancellor sat down after his statement on March 10, the general view was that his package would be good for gilt-edged and bad for equities—and the next day, the FT Industrial Index fell by 14.3 to 470.0.

This Thursday, little more than five weeks later, the Index closed very nearly 100 points higher at 568.5. A fifth of this increase had come on that single day, as jobbers who had been preparing themselves for the holiday weekend were caught short by a wave of buying.

Over the same period—since the day after the Budget—the FT Government Securities Index has gone nowhere.

After a near vertical rise in share prices over such a short period in time, some form of reaction seems inevitable—sooner rather than later. But the bulls certainly have the upper hand at present and nowhere is enthusiasm more obvious than in the manufacturing sectors of the stock market.

Even companies with barely covered dividends are on single *figure yields these* days, and those with an assured dividend payment are yielding up to 10 *points less than* long dated gilts. There must be much bewilderment in Birmingham.

Heavyweight engineers

Not many UK engineering companies managed to improve their profits last year but two *major* exceptions, Hawker Siddeley and Northern Engineering, presented their figures this week. Hawker's profits before tax was up 5 per cent to £113m and Northern's advanced nearly 44 per cent to £26m, still short of the £30.5m made in 1978.

Progress for both companies came substantially in overseas markets, despite the pressure of sterling. Northern prospered in South Africa and the U.S. where it made sizeable acquisitions, and Hawker in Australia and the U.S. Hawker suffered, however, from two lengthy strikes in Canada. Turnover of the big Canadian subsidiary was down 8 per cent to £194m.

Neither company had an easy time in the UK. Hawker suffered what it called serious difficulties in automotive diesels, batteries and light electrical products and has taken £6m in rationalisation costs above the line. Northern's UK results were improved by loss reduction in the Reyrolle switchgear business worth perhaps £4m—but it had been hoped that losses would have been eliminated there by the end of last year.

Both companies continued to invest heavily, Northern spending £21m in the UK and £25m abroad, *mainly to acquire* U.S. electronics companies. Hawker's acquisitions last year reduced net liquid assets to £36m from £84m.

Northern is spending heavily on fixed assets, particularly on the turbine business where it claims to be closing in on the Japanese in competitive terms. The group's overall order intake last year rose by nearly one half before taking into account the boilers for the UK's two new nuclear power stations, which are worth well over £200m.

Both groups have strong balance sheets and should show further profit progress this year although Northern's immediate prospects are probably brighter than those of Hawker.

The shares of both companies have participated in the sharp recent rise in the engineering sector and are about two fifths above their low points for the year, but Northern's 6 per cent yield is well above Hawker's 3½ per cent.

Forte thwarted

Trusthouse Forte is not going *stomping at* the Savoy, for the time being at any rate. This week, the High Court dismissed its application for an order to convene special meetings of the two classes of Savoy shareholders. THF had hoped to use these meetings to weave its way around the Savoy's archaic voting structure, and so secure control of the company in the face of great hostility from the defending Board.

THF has been granted leave to appeal against the judgment, and has always made it clear that it would consider an outright offer for the Savoy if it failed in the courts. The market is certainly expecting further action. The shares closed the week at 188p—compared with 125p before Sir Charles Forte made his first *move*. Just a couple of days earlier, the Savoy had disclosed that a sharp fall in the number of *overseas* visitors had left it with a loss of £1.8m in 1980.

London Shop row

In a week when Laing Properties has come to the market with a £20m rights issue, London Shop Property Trust has come under heavy fire from its largest shareholder, McLeod Russel, for its £4.87m issue.

Rights issues from property companies have become increasingly common in the past few years. Although its is questionable whether diluting net assets in this way is in the best interests of shareholders, it is very rare for a major shareholder to oppose an issue of shares so publicly.

Not only has McLeod Russel urged other shareholders to reject the rights issue at an extraordinary meeting on April 24 but it has given a warning that it may sell its own 20 per cent stake if it does not get its way.

McLeod, the tea plantation to property group, has chosen to concentrate its strongest attack on London's Shop's investment policy of acquiring high-yielding secondary properties.

McLeod contends that London Shop *should be* concentrating on lower yielding better quality properties. Yet the company does not have the financial muscle to compete with the large institutional investors who are buying prime properties at yields currently as low as 3¾ and 4 per cent, the return suggested by McLeod.

McLeod acquired its initial 15 per cent stake in London Shop in a "dawn raid" last December. The rights issue would cost it £1m to take up.

Since December, London Shop's share price had risen from 89½p to 135p ahead of the rights issue announcement. But if McLeod carries out its threat to depart the scene it would undoubtedly weaken the share price significantly, a fact McLeod has been at pains to stress to London Shop stockholders.

There is still a lot of talking to be done. Eagle Star, London Shop's other large shareholder with a 5 per cent stake, says that at this stage it intends to support the rights issue—but it will be having a meeting with McLeod Russel next week.

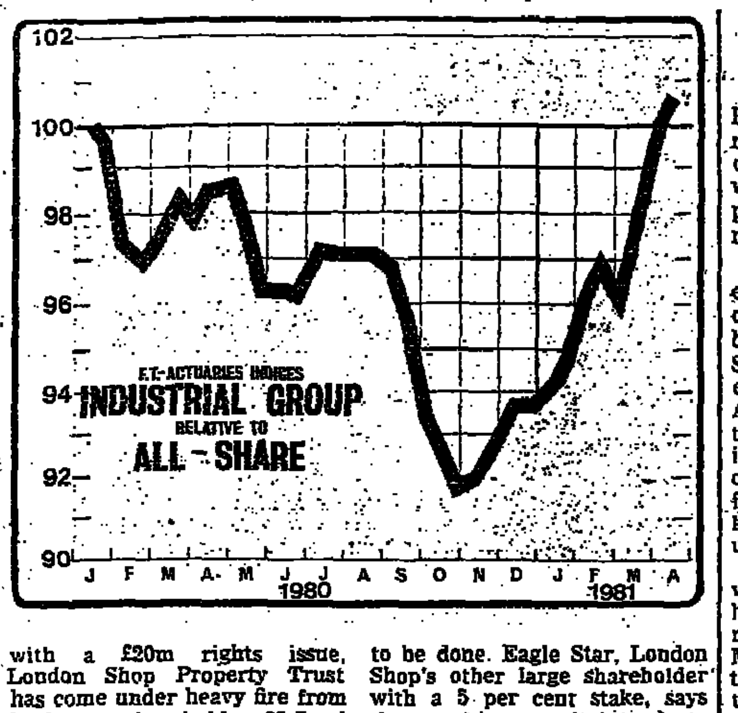
Glaxo gells

Glaxo's *share price* was moving up strongly even before improved interim figures pushed *it to a peak of 344p*. But then the shares had been rather deserted by the market after a *disappointing result at the half-*way stage a year ago, and consequently had a particularly *good chance of outperforming* the indices while making up the lost ground. After this week's interim pre-tax profit of £35.6m, the shares stood 40 per cent higher than before last year's lapse—and fully 85 per cent above the low point to which they then sank.

This upward movement has to be explained partly as a rehabilitation — based on the trading performance — and partly as a manifestation of bullishness about drugs which have *either scarcely* begun their careers, or are yet to be launched.

Two newish products which are already contributing are Trandate — used to control *hypertension*—and the injectible cephalosporin, Zinacef. But the better results owe a lot to *substantial price rises for* more established drugs, where margins have been maintained without *affecting sales too* drastically. UK turnover was up by a third.

The two principal novelties which are being anticipated in the price — roughly 16 times prospective earnings—are the U.S. clearance of Ventolin—an anti-asthma aerosol—and the launching of Ranitidine, an ulcer treatment to be marketed for the first time in Italy in October.



MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

	Price Thursday	Change on week	1981 High	1981 Low	
F.T. Ind. Ord. Index	568.5	+17.2	568.5	446.0	Optimism about economic upturn
Bowater	284	+15	286	171	Speculative demand
Bramell (C. D.)	104	+12	106	83	Board's confident outlook
Callender (Geo. M.)	64*	+10	64	31	*Bid approach*
Central Pacific Minerals	110	−30	415	105	*Inquiry into share dealings*
Glaxo	*346*	+24	*346*	242	*Half-year results*
Haden Carrier	310	+22	310	157	Press comment
Horizon Travel	258	−16	274	126	Fall in holiday bookings
Lunuva (Ceylon)	450	+45	450	355	Special dividend payment
Martonair	260	−15	278	208	Disappointing interim figures
Mercury Secs.	245	+15	245	208	Possible sale of Warburg subsidiary
News Intnl.	128	+28	128	88	Interim figures
Nova (Jersey) *Knit*	71	+8	71	47	*Broker's circular*
Rothmans	86	+5½	86	38	Talks with R. J. Reynolds
Southern Pacific Petroleum	48	−12	157	42	Inquiry into share dealings
Telephone Rentals	343	+23	355	250	British Telecom may lose monopoly
Thorn EMI	400	+26	401	282	Video/prospects
United Carriers	165	+21	165	115	Good annual results
GEC	702	+17	702	573	Absence of defence cuts

* Suspension price

Smiths' scores

IT IS difficult to rub out an old label but Smiths Industries *is successfully* eradicating its time-honoured tag as a watch and vehicle equipment manufacturer.

Its interim profits released this week showed a small improvement at a time when most motor component companies are being knocked for six. In the belief that the group will be able to hold the annual total within reasonable sight of last year's level, the shares have been marked up to over 350p recently against the low for 1981 of 256p.

The dividend yield is not very much better than 4 per cent but Smith's ability to develop new markets while containing the *worst of its losses by rationalisation* in the downbeat sectors of vehicle instrumentation, marine radar, and *component parts* distribution has been widely appreciated.

In the light of the sharp fall in new car registrations and the drop *in UK manufacturers'* share of the new car market, SI's retreat has been timely, to say the least. And its profits are holding up well. In the half year to January 1981 it made almost £10m pre-tax against £9.2m and the City is confidently expecting profits for the full year of at least £24m against £26.1m in the previous year.

There are many reasons for this resilience but they all add up to the results of a concerted *management effort over the last* few years to find new markets and technological leadership in *growth products*. The new medical operations, producing about £3m before tax and *interest, are a good example of* this approach. Many of these products are sold abroad, often *in the U.S., and there the group* has been able to counter tight purchasing controls by American hospitals by offering a complete package of blood sampling and analysis kits, containing pre-packed syringes and swabs which SI could demonstrate saved the costly time of specialised medical staff.

All of this is a long way from the instruments, dials and heaters used every day in British Leyland cars and trucks. But the most outstanding difference between Smiths and those companies labouring exclusively in the automotive components market is the performance and potential of the aerospace division.

Aviation produced trading profits of £4.69m against £1.09m in the latest half year—split *almost equally between the military* and civil markets—and much interest is now focused *on when and to what extent the* U.S. Marine Corps will order the special version of the vertical *jump-jet Harrier*, the AV8B. SI's finance director, Alan Hornsby, is careful not to get *carried away by the possibility* of "hundreds of planes and orders worth millions of pounds." But the Marines want to order 336 aircraft and the value of this fleet, SI has estimated, would be £20m to the group by 1985.

The group has been involved with McDonnell Douglas through the development contract which, given normal circumstances, would almost guarantee SI a slice of the first production order for the AV8B.

SI has been a pioneer in two important sectors of the aerospace components markets. The group supplies leading customers such as British Airways and Lufthansa with auto-throttles and performance data control systems, which are vital to fuel conservation.

It has also developed expertise in what the industry calls "head up" displays. These project *information onto a fighter* pilot's windscreen—rather than forcing him to peer down at the aviators' equivalent of the dashboard—which is now considered essential for interceptors moving at over twice the speed of sound.

The group is not abandoning the volume car business, although it is having to adapt to changing technology. Stockbrokers Henderson Crosthwaite, in a recent comment on the engineering scene, found that "*the development of vehicle* engine control and instrumentation is moving into new fields *of micro-chippery which Smiths'* rightly sees as other people's and into which it would seem *increasingly disinclined* to trespass."

SI has trimmed about a tenth *of its 17,000-strong workforce* through cuts in the automotive and industrial parts activities *over the last 12 months and* counted the full estimated cost in its last accounts. The loss *of almost £2m before tax and* interest on motor component production in the latest half *year was incurred without the* influence of closure and rationalisation costs.

The group warns that the trading environment is not getting any better and further cuts *are* possible. But it has not been scared off by the advent of "micro-chippery" even if Mr. Hornsby says that "it could be surmised that when a major change in technology occurs, that should be the time for decision making."

But despite the fact that the group accepts that "all the European people will be doing the same thing" it has set up a pilot plant near its North West London base and is supplying a trip computer as an optional extra on the new Mini Metro—which gives a driver details of his fuel consumption and his expected journey completion time. The group finance director maintains that *SI "cannot afford to* drop out of this market because it must be able to make the technical change to stay in volume car components."

So while SI's Original Equipment exposure has dropped to the point where its turnover represents under a tenth of the group total and despite the tangible strengths of its aerospace *and overseas activities*, there is a very good chance that drivers who stay loyal to British manu*facturers will be planning* their journeys and plotting their fuel consumption from a *dashboard of SI instruments*.

Ray Maughan

Cares dismissed

NEW YORK
IAN HARGREAVES

FIRST QUARTER company results, *many* of them disappointing, poured in this week ahead of the holiday period, *but the stock market* resolutely held its ground.

The Dow Jones Industrials ended a truncated week back over the 1,000 mark and the broader indices, such as the Standard and Poor 500 also ended in the plus column. Among the Dow averages, only the utilities were lower, reflecting continued upward pressure on interest rates and a mild form of chaos in the bond markets, which utilities depend upon to raise capital.

Economic statistics for the week were not particularly helpful to the market, with retail sales (up 0.1 per cent in March), housing starts and factory operating levels all pointing to a dull second quarter. But the evidence is not all one way on this front, with March industrial production somewhat higher than many economists had projected.

But for corporate America, these are difficult times, especially for the *many* companies which badly need to borrow long, but cannot do so *because of the state of the bond* markets, and must therefore continue drawing high-cost bank *borrowings to produce working* capital. In these circumstances, just to stay level with inflation, currently *running in the low* double digits, is an achievement. Not many of the larger companies which *reported earnings* last week have succeeded in making it.

The biggest banks came in with generally very poor results. Bank of America was down 19 per cent and *Chase Manhattan* by 17 per cent. But Chase's stock, for example, ended the week only 25 cents *lower*.

Aluminium Company of America's profits were down by 29 per cent, Goodyear's by 6.3 per cent and Texas Instruments by 32 per cent. IBM managed a 7.1 per cent gain, but that was nearly 5 per cent less than its gain in sales. Warner Lambert, the big drug company announced a large loss following a $134m write-down to cover "restructuring"—a euphemism for ditching operations which management has failed to come to grips with.

But the market managed to live with all of these results without registering any great shock (Texas Instruments fell by $1.50, but even that is not much on a $121 share price). In short, the market was not surprised, although it was not pleased by Coca-Cola whose share price slithered by almost $4 to $35½ when management reported the company would again be struggling this year to achieve the 12 per cent growth the company used to be able to take for granted.

At the other end of the spectrum, companies which did please the market (Merrill Lynch up 31 per cent, American Telephone and Telegraph up a respectable 11 per cent and American Airlines, which recovered *from* a large loss a year ago) had their shares marked up between 50 cents and a dollar.

None did so well, however, as those boosted by rumour. *Shearson* Loeb Rhoades the Wall Street investment company, spurted 7 points on the hint of closer ties with American Express, which the market is betting may presage a full scale merger.

The main reason for the market's fortitude in the face of this slow crumbling of profitability in blue chip America is that it has got used to the corrosive impact of inflation, it is relieved that the economy has avoided the collapse which many foresaw in the first quarter and it is generally speaking confident that the Reagan economic plan will start to make some impact in the second half of the year, although there is some disappointment that the Administration's tax cuts now look unlikely to be effective before August 1 at the earliest.

Another reason for the market to be stalled, however, is the general uncertainty surrounding the likely immediate course of interest rates. Everyone has now adjusted to the idea that the downward slide of rates has ended for a while, but there is wide-ranging disagreement upon the April money supply data, which ought to surge if only for seasonal tax payment reasons, but which some economists feel may not because of big changes in the way that Americans have been storing their savings.

If the money supply numbers are better than expected in the next three weeks, the potential for more money to move into *stocks is high*. If, however, short rates go up, stocks could be looking over a precipice.

MONDAY	993.16	− 7.11
TUESDAY	989.10	− 0.41
WEDNESDAY	1,001.71	+12.61
THURSDAY	1,005.53	+ 3.87

FRIDAY: Holiday.

Bigger Easter eggs next year?

MINING
KENNETH MARSTON

SPRING may have sprung, as they say, but unless it is my imagination the Easter eggs seem to be smaller this year. Certainly this is the case as far as the earnings being reported by the mining industry are concerned. The hope is for a second-half 1981 improvement —a reversal of what happened in 1980—which will provide better eggs next year.

The UK-based **Rio Tinto-Zinc** mining and industrial group started 1980 in fine form, being particularly helped by the firmness of prices for its copper and gold. Earnings rose by 45 per cent to £89.7m in the first half, but the darkening clouds of the world recession changed the picture after that.

As a result, net profits for the full year, announced this *week, come out in line with* expectations at £155.4m, equal to 61.56p per share, compared *with £149.8m in 1979. The divi*dend total has been raised only by 1p to 16p net and RTZ has *warned that earnings will be* lower in the first half of the current year.

The share price has taken this in its stride, partly because of the ever-present hopes of a *major oil company making a bid* for RTZ. At the group's Press conference this week Sir Anthony Tuke, who is to become chairman after this year's annual meeting, said that no approaches had been made.

Whether there ever will be is a moot point. For one thing, the current share price values RTZ at about £1.2bn and any successful bid would, of course, have to be worth much more than that which is a large lump to chew even for an oil major.

While opinions vary, there is also some doubt as to whether a British Government would allow control of RTZ to pass into hands overseas. For one thing, the group's Rossing mine in *Namibia—which was the major* contributor to last year's rise in profits—supplies vital uranium to the UK while RTZ's other overseas mining operations also represent UK lifelines of raw materials.

In these days when most metals are cheap—some are close to production cost—and in plentiful supply it tends to be forgotten how quickly the picture can change when the world moves out of recession. As a major importer of raw materials the UK would be ill-placed if it lost its grip on supply lines at a time of scarcity.

Indeed, it is the anticipation of revived demand for metals that is the other factor maintaining the RTZ share price. The group itself is pinning its faith in higher future prices for metals in its plans for produc*tion start-ups around 1987* at the £400m Quartz Hill molybdenum mine in Alsaka and the huge *£1bn Cerro Colorado* copper venture in Panama.

Because of the big rise in con*struction costs new* mines will require higher metal prices in order to break even. Cerro *Colorado, for instance, will need* a copper price in the region of $1 to $1.20 per pound compared with the present level of under 90 cents.

The mining industry generally is going to have to raise huge amounts of capital for the next generation of mines. But Sir Anthony Tuke *points out that* this presents no great problem in the case of a good ore deposit in the right place. *In other* words he reckons that the mining industry can manage without oil company money and, for that matter, oil company management.

Still having a hard time is the world's leading producer of nickel: Canada's Inco. Because of the *over-supply position* of the metal Inco has cut production and is offering price discounts. *Its sales rose in the* first quarter of this year, but they were still below production with the result that unsold stocks increased further to 162m from 155m lbs at the end of 1980.

During the past quarter the group also received lower prices for its copper and precious metals while the ElectroEnergy battery making *subsidiary suffered* increased losses in line with the subdued market for car batteries.

As a result, Inco's 1981 first quarter earnings dropped to U.S.$26.9m (£12.4m) from *$36.9m in the final* quarter of 1980 and $97.5m in the first quarter of that year. And the *company does not expect much* in the way of improvement until at least the second half of *this year*.

Looking further ahead, however, Inco with its big ore deposits and paid-for mines and installations is well placed to make the most of the eventual recovery in nickel demand. This is going to take quite some time to develop, but it is interesting to note that at present nickel prices, the value of Inco's nickel stocks alone is some $500m compared with the company's current market capitalisation of $1.6bn.

● The CRA-led Ashton diamond venture in Western Australia is *not expected* to reach production for about two years, which is longer than has been generally expected. It bodes to become a major producer of industrial quality diamonds and very small gems, a sharply increased flow of which could be very embarrassing in the present state of the diamond market.

● *Consolidated* **Murchison** pulled out of the red last quarter thanks to a boost in its *shipments of antimony*. The market for the material appears to be picking up at last but *special factors* are believed to have played a part in Murchison's higher sales and caution is indicated prior to the mine's results for the current quarter.

● *A further indication of marginal gold mines being squeezed* between lower gold prices and rising costs has come from South Africa's **Loraine** which made an operating loss last *quarter and had to draw upon* state aid. The mine also had to contend with lower production as a result of an increased amount of lower grade material treated.

Tax relief for an employee

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

I am employed by a University but working from home as research assistant. I need to heat a room and use the telephone in connection with my work, and buy my own office supplies. I pay rent for my flat and the position is slightly complicated by the fact that I sub-let part of it. A car is essential for my job and I am paid a mileage allowance. Is there any sort of relief I can get for these various expenses?

As to the expenses deductible in taxing the rent which you receive from your subtenant, you will find help in a free booklet (IR 27) which is obtainable from most tax inspectors' offices: Notes on the taxation of income from real property. It is not quite clear from your letter whether the rent is assessable under schedule A or schedule D, but the booklet should make things clearer to you.

Unfortunately, the schedule E (PAYE) expenses rules are notoriously narrow and rigid, so we must not raise your hopes of securing tax relief for your home expenses. The position might be better if your employers bore some of the expenses direct, or reimbursed you—as with our car allowance. Unless yours is a newly created post, your employers may have agreed some aspects of the expenses question with the PAYE tax inspector in relation to your predecessor. The best advice we can offer, in the circumstances, is that you should talks things over with your employers.

Information on a will

Under the terms of a relative's will, his estate was held in trust and the income paid to his wife and subsequently to his children. On the death of the last surviving child the capital was to be distributed and I was named among those to benefit.

The last surviving child to benefit from the Trust died in September, 1979. The administration of the Trust is in the hands of solicitors appointed by the Trustees, but the only information I have received is a brief letter from the solicitors, in response to my enquiry in June, 1980 to the effect that no distribution of funds was possible until the question of Capital Transfer Tax had been settled.

Can you please advise me what are the duties of the Trustees in such circumstances? Are they required to have notified me, as a residuary legatee, of the anticipated amount of funds involved, and to have furnished me with a copy of the will?

The trustees need not have volunteered the information or documents you refer to, but should provide them on request. We suggest that you press them to resolve the outstanding matter with the Capital Taxes Office speedily and also ask for copy estate accounts.

An end to a trust

According to the terms of my grandfather's will, the funds in a building society account left to my mother are held by her and a cousin as joint trustees. She receives the interest, and holds the book, but cannot withdraw funds without the signature of her cousin, with whom she has had no contact since the account was opened in 1955. What, please, is the legal position so far as this cousin is concerned? Has he any claim on the money?

The second trustee has the right to the legal control of the account jointly with your mother. If your mother is the sole beneficiary, i.e., is entitled to the whole benefit of the money in the account to the exclusion of all other persons, she may require the trust to be brought to an end and the account transferred to her alone. She should request her cousin to do this. If the cousin does not agree it would be necessary to consult a solicitor.

No liability for CTT

I purchased my house about 30 years ago. I hold it under a lease for 999 years of which there are still around 945 years to run. Since then there has been a periodic subsidence of the front lawn. Nobody so far has been able to say what is the cause of it. Can you tell me if, in the event of the subsidence continuing, and the cause proving to be of a serious nature, who would be responsible for dealing with the cause of the subsidence? Would I as the owner of the house under the lease, the owner of the freehold, or the insurance company under their standard policy which covers damage to the house through subsidence, even though the cause of the subsidence is not yet known and no damage to the property has as yet occurred?

The question of responsibility depends on what is the cause of the subsidence, on the terms of your lease and of any contract to purchase it. Unless there is positive evidence which would lay the fault on an identifiable, and responsible, party you would have to bear any loss yourself (unless you have an insurance policy which covers this eventuality).

No approval for executor

As the executor of my late mother-in-law, can I withhold the final distribution of the residue of her estate until I have received signatures from the beneficiaries approving of my adminstration of the estate, as it affects them?

No; you can require a receipt discharging your liability to the beneficiary, but not a positive approval of your administration of the estate.

A libellous letter

A letter from an opposing firm of solicitors to my own solicitor is, I think, highly libellous of me! My own solicitor has given me this letter. Can I now sue the opposing firm of solicitors for libel or are they protected by privilege? If I sue, should I sue the firm or the individual solicitor who made the libel?

If the letter was written in the course of correspondence concerning a legal issue between you and another person, the occasion is one which gives rise to "qualified privilege." In these circumstances there will be no libel unless you can show that the statement complained of was actuated by malice. You would probably have to sue the individual who made the statement, but can best be advised as to that by your own solicitor.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

Teacher's pension in spain

I have gone to live in Spain, and draw a teacher's pension from the UK. There is some difference of opinion here as to where this premium is taxed. Could you please explain the position?

Under article 19 (3) of the Spain-UK double taxation convention of October 21, 1975, your teaching pension is taxable in the UK but is exempt from Spanish tax. If you were to acquire Spanish nationality, the pension would become exempt from UK tax but fully taxable in Spain.

Insurance of a listed building

I am the octogenarian owner-occupier of a house near Glasgow in a very handsome terrace of eleven houses built of stone nearly 100 years ago. Current selling price about £30,000. We are in a conservation area.

Owing to the large rooms and the massive stone construction, the cost of rebuilding in their present form would be staggering, probably well over £100,000, and full insurance is now a very heavy burden which I can ill afford.

In the event of my house being a total loss is it correct that the local or any other authority could insist that my house be rebuilt?

You are perfectly correct that under the Listed Building Regulations the heritable proprietor can be compelled to re-instate the property in the event of its destruction by fire or other mishap. Obviously this requirement bends to practicalities but if your building is in a terrace as appears to be the case then in such a situation the Local Authority might well compel you to rebuild in the event of the destruction of the building particularly if the facade was retained.

Accordingly it is of critical importance that insurance for the whole reinstatement cost of the building be maintained. This is the burden of ownership of a Listed Property which must be offset against the enhanced value that such a property will always, we hope, have.

Pension for a non-resident

I am a retired shipmaster who has earned his living for the past 12 years on foreign ships. I am classed as non-resident for tax purposes and intend to remain so. I recently had a letter from a Government department asking me to fill in a form with a view to my getting a retirement pension. What, please, is my position in this matter? Can I draw a pension from the UK without this making me deemed to be resident or domiciled in the UK?

State pensions are payable to UK citizens who emigate. There is a complicated web of international social security agreements (comparable to double taxation treaties) which affect what you get. A person who has worked in the UK and paid National Insurance contributions in respect of that period in his working life may receive a proportion from the UK scheme and a proportion from some other state national scheme. Certain non-UK nationals who have resided in the UK for part of their careers likewise have entitlement to a proportion of the pension calculated at UK rates.

We suggest that you ascertain from the UK DHSS the amount which they calculate is due to you in respect of the period in which you contributed. We suggest that you also ask the DHSS to refer your case to the department that deals with overseas payments (based in Newcastle) and to advise you as to the amount payable if you are resident and/or domiciled in a particular country outside the UK.

We do not see how receipt of benefits due in respect of past contributions would have any effect on your current non-resident status or domicile.

Hugh Routledge

Damage to commercial premises is a grey area in insurance

Brixton and after . . .

INSURANCE

ERIC SHORT

THE BRIXTON riots last weekend left a trail of destruction in their wake with damage to persons, property and motor vehicles. The British Insurance Association is still assessing the costs to the insurance companies, though the ultimate damage figure is likely to be less spectacular than the damage itself. But it does raise the question of insurance cover to damage arising from such incidents.

As far as the individual is concerned his normal insurance policy does cover damage arising from riots and civil commotion, though nuclear damage may well be excluded. This is comforting news to those involved in Brixton and the BIA issued a reassuring statement with commendable speed on this point.

Dealing with household damage first, this should cause no problems either with damage to the building itself or the contents. Thus householders can claim if a brick has been thrown through the window, and they can claim if their house has been looted. It is dealt with in the same way as storm damage or theft. On this latter point there could be problems with money in the house, but this is a troublesome point with theft claims in general. Most of these policies do however impose a small excess so that the householder may have to pay the first £15 or so of a claim.

With motor vehicles it is not so straightforward. If the motorist has comprehensive cover, then there are no problems. He can claim on any damage from a bumper dent to a complete write-off. But if the motorist has third party fire and theft cover only there could be problems.

If the car is set on fire, the motorist can claim. If the car is taken away, that is considered as stolen, and then damaged, the motorist can claim. But if it is simply damaged then there is no claim under this type of contract.

This may seem illogical to the motorist for it leads to some anomolies. If the rioter throws a petrol bomb, so that the car catches fire, the motorist can claim under third party fire and theft. But if the rioter throws lumps of bricks at the car, even if badly damaged there is no claim. If the rioters push the car a certain distance, then no one knows whether this could be regarded as a theft. The moral is to take out comprehensive cover.

The public in general do not insure themselves other than for death. Personal accident cover is not an insurance contract that is taken out. So damage to persons does not get financial compensation unless the individual does have personal accident cover. And with such contracts the damage has to be significant — such as the loss of a limb or an eye. These riots may emphasise the need for more publicity to this type of cover and for the range of cover to be extended.

If the damage is done to a shop or commercial premises then the position changes. This is a grey area in insurance, but generally speaking, loss or damage from riot and civil commotion is generally excluded under commercial fire and burglary insurance. This cover could be included in fire insurance if the company was prepared to pay an extra premium. But it is not given for burglary insurance.

Persons without insurance and companies affected can apply to the authorities for compensation following damage done by a riot. Those involved need to see their solicitors as soon as possible to get their claim on record. But there is no substitute for adequate insurance.

What reactions are insurance companies likely to take following the riots? It is doubtful if they will start charging higher premiums in potential trouble spots. The premiums for Brixton, being in the inner London district, are already the highest rated for contents insurance because of the theft risk. Inner districts of other major cities also have high premiums for theft risk.

On the commercial side, insurance companies are likely to come under pressure to provide riot cover at the appropriate extra premium. The need for insurance is highlighted by such riots.

Mr. Raper and Saint Piran

BY REG VAUGHAN

THE FULL report by Department of Trade inspectors on Saint Piran, the controversial mining and property group, concludes that the Secretary of State should consider a petition to the Court under Section 35 (1) of the Companies Act, 1967 to wind up the company. But Mr. Reginald Eyre, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, considers this course inappropriate. He prefers to leave it up to shareholders themselves to bring such an action if they wish.

The report was prepared by Mr. G. M. Godfrey QC and Mr. A. J. Hardcastle FCA, who were appointed on December 18, 1979 under Sections 165 (B) and 172 of the 1948 Companies Act to investigate the affairs and ownership of the company.

Publication of the report comes three days after a bid was launched for Saint Piran from Gasco Investments (Netherlands) at 50p per share. This company is part of Gasco Investments, the master company of Mr. James Raper, a former chairman of Saint Piran.

The inspectors make it clear that the board of Saint Piran is controlled by Gasco Investments and Mr. Raper. They say that the present directors "are likely to be faced with conflicts of interest which, on the evidence of the past, they are unlikely to resolve for the benefit of Saint Piran."

The inspectors conclude "we are not persuaded to alter our conclusions that Mr. Raper is himself beneficially interested in Bathgate (which the inspectors claim has been the most influential shareholder in Saint Piran) although we have been unable to ascertain the nature or extent of his interest."

On the winding-up recommendation the inspectors state: "You may think, after considering our report with your advisers, that you have not only the power but the duty to do so, thus enabling the shareholders to express their views to the Court and the Court to reach its own conclusion."

Mr. Eyre said "the Companies Acts confer many rights on shareholders — these were strengthened and extended only last year by the 1980 Act, and include a right for the shareholders themselves to bring an action.

"It is now for the shareholders to consider their position. I am not persuaded that costly litigation by the Secretary of State would be justified in the public interest."

In their report the inspectors say that every director who was on the board of Saint Piran at the date of Mr. Raper's appointment resigned within 12 months. "They appear to have taken the view that they were unable to resist the pressures exerted by Mr. Raper to obtain control of the Saint Piran's board."

The report states that since the departure of Mr. Smith, Mr. Adie, and Mr. Jeffreys in the summer of 1978 "we believe it impossible to treat the board as independent of Mr. Raper; he has, we think, been a director of Saint Piran in all but name."

Referring to the position of Mr. Malcolm Stone, chairman of Saint Piran and also managing director of Gasco Investments, the inspectors say that he faces, potentially, a most severe conflict of interest.

Mr. Stone, however, considers that the conflict is mostly theoretical. He has informed the inspectors that he has not permitted Gasco or Mr. Raper to direct him, that he holds no personal brief from Mr. Raper, and that he would not bend to pressure from Gasco, Mr. Raper or anyone else. The inspectors say "we record this, but our doubts remain."

The inspectors said that Mr. Raper's fundamental operating policy is to control companies with less than a majority shareholding but with his nominees forming the majorities of their boards.

"We think that Saint Piran's Far East interests have a continuing attraction for Mr. Raper." The inspectors say that Mr. Raper has devoted a lot of time to those interests and they believe he wishes to control them.

"In effect, he is able to exercise this control both through his influence over the Saint Piran board and also on a day to day basis through the management agreement between Gasco and St. Piran (Hong Kong)."

YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

FINANCIAL ADVICE

Eric Short continues the series on financial advisers, looking at insurance brokers

Is there more to Life?

THE PUBLIC does not immediately associate the life insurance broker with the role of investment adviser. The name implies a profession which is concerned with arranging the life insurance needs of the public.

The life assurance industry these days, however, is much more concerned with investment than protection. The growth of unit linked policies as a means of saving has seen to that. Insurance brokers have had to expand their professional expertise to embrace investment advice in order to market modern life company products, especially those from the linked life companies.

Life assurance has always offered the public a means of regular long-term savings boosted by the tax relief on life premiums. But until the advent of unit-linked life assurance, the savings contracts offered were the conventional with-profits endowments, providing a safe, steady return to the investor. The life broker in those days simply quoted the life company with the best bonus record or his favourite life company with the best prospects. There was no other choice to offer the investor.

Brokers were more involved then in doing their job of arranging life cover, primarily the whole life non-profits plan which was the standard protection policy in pre-inflation days. When advising clients on financial planning, one important element of the advice related to investment while another element referred to life cover.

The advent of unit-linked life assurance added several new dimensions to life assurance as a savings medium. The introduction of single premium bonds offered an alternative to unit trusts. Investors could pick a variety of funds to back their contracts: equities, property, fixed-interest or a mixed fund. Regular savings plans were designed to boost the investment return by reducing life cover to the absolute minimum needs to get the tax relief.

These two developments had a startling impact on life brokers. With traditional with-profits contracts the investment mix is left entirely to the life company with the bonus record as the only tangible evidence of the fruits of investment policy. With linked business, the broker has to advise on the choice of funds as well as the choice of life companies. Which company is best for a property bond? Should the investor go into equities, overseas equities, fixed interest or a managed fund?

The introduction of personal pension contracts for the self-employed, moreover, meant that life brokers had to acquire further professional skills to meet client needs. The self-employed can only save towards their pension and get all the tax reliefs if they use a life company contract.

Brokers have had to acquire specialist knowledge on how much clients can put into a plan, as well as recommending the type of scheme and the linking—investment considerations similar to linked bonds and regular savings.

Linked life assurance and unit trusts are now regarded as accepable alternatives to direct equity holdings. Life brokers have been recommending both types, trusts as well as bonds and this side of their business has been growing.

These developments immediately beg the question as to whether life brokers have the necessary expertise to give investment advice. After all, their training in most cases has been in marketing rather than investment.

Some major brokers accept this point and have started employing investment advisers whose training has been in stockbroking, merchant banking, or life company investments. The medium and smaller brokers have had to learn as they go along. Life companies in the linked business send out regular bulletins to brokers setting out the current investment scene. The companies also hold regular investment seminars given by investment managers.

Even so, the feeling persists at the lower end at least that brokers play safe when giving investment advice on the types of fund to go for.

The latest development in linked life business is the option to switch funds. Properly done this can boost the return considerably and avoid bear markets. But get the timing wrong and clients will lose money. Certain brokers now offer switching advice, and although some are showing impressive track records clients need to check very carefully the expertise of brokers offering this service.

The other public image of brokers is that they will only recommend life contract or unit trusts that provide them with the maximum commission. Most brokers, especially the smaller ones, need the commission to finance their business.

Bigger brokers, however, are beginning to offer a complete investment service, covering the client's liquid resources. These brokers say they will recommend building societies, granny bonds and even direct investment through a stockbroker. They consider the remuneration on contracts to meet client's insurance needs is adequate.

There are more than 2,000 brokers with life business who are members of the British Insurance Brokers Association and many more non-members. The following broking companies were taken as representing a cross-section of the strata from the major national broking firms to the small provincial operations.

Noble Lowndes, a member of the Hill Samuel Group, has been offering financial planning and investment advice for around 20 years. It was one of the early broking organisations to switch into the unit-linked fields with access to investment advice through its parent. It is now involved in dealing with client's financial affairs although the original enquiry was solely concerned with insurance advice.

It is heavily involved in the self-employed pensions market, as well as individual bonds and unit-trusts. Much of its business comes from other advisers—mainly accountants. It is now expanding its range of financial services, especially advising executives of companies which its associates advise on general insurance or employee benefit business.

Godwins has developed its financial planning services with its involvement with senior executives of client companies on the employee benefits side. This has developed into retirement counselling and private client business. The group does not confine itself to insurance products but offers a complete package. It offers clients the choice of paying fees for advice, offsetting any commission received or Godwins keeping the commission. It feels that it can offer a better all-round investment advice service than the run-of-the-mill stockbroker.

Richards Longstaff regards itself as providing a complete financial service, advising on all aspects of investment. The firm has a strong unit trust department managing trusts for clients as a stockbroker manages shares. It claims to have a good relationship with a variety of stockbroking firms resulting in two-way business between the two groups to the client's advantage.

These three are major brokers. Mark Griffiths of Griffiths and Armour, a medium-sized broking firm in Liverpool, is very much involved in the linked business for his clients but relies on his own researches and contacts with life companies for his expertise. He is wary of switching clients except in rare, well-considered cases.

John Bumpus of R. G. Ford is based in Chelmsford and is heavily involved in the mortgage business. For young clients coming to him for the first time he sticks to with-profits so that it can be used for mortgage repayment. He does recommend unit-linked to clients with a good traditional base, sticking to the groups with reliable records.

John Poston, of Western Insurance Brokers in Cornwall, does very little unit-linked business. He is mainly involved with mortgages so has strong connections with building societies. His elderly clients with cash sums from their pension schemes seek safe investments such as guaranteed income bonds.

The aftermath of a hammering

THE 5,000 or so private clients of Hedderwick Stirling Grumbar must have had a nasty shock last Saturday when they opened their morning papers and discovered the stockbroking firm had been "hammered" on the stock market at 5.45 pm the previous evening.

The moment the hammer came down Hedderwick had to stop dealing. Its principals (not partners because Hedderwick is an unlimited corporate entity not a partnership) were expelled from Stock Exchange membership and all their assets and those of the company frozen under the management of the Stock Exchange's official assignee, Mr. Martin Fidler.

Clients with outstanding positions with Hedderwick, or those who had given the firm discretionary powers to deal on their behalf, were understandably shocked and worried. But by the time they had learned of the disaster the well-oiled machinery of the Stock Exchange had already been set in motion.

The exchange boasts proudly of its record in dealing with the aftermath of members' failures—a not infrequent occurrence during the dark days of the market collapse of 1974. Hedderwick is the largest firm to have fallen since 1974 but the mechanisms to cope with it are more than adequate.

At the heart of the system is the Compensation Fund into which all members pay. This stands at about £1.4m though it is likely to be eaten into to the tune of possibly £½m by the collapse in February of the small broking firm of Norman Collins.

At first sight Hedderwick's problems — which arose from unpaid debts of about £1.9m from one client, Farrington Stead, a Manchester investment house — look as if they could exhaust the compensation fund.

However, behind the fund lies the Stock Exchange's cash reserves of about £9m. These and other reserves total possibly £80m can be called upon if necessary.

Before this occurs however, the assignee (acting as liquidator in this case because of Hedderwick's corporate status) has access to all the assets of the firm and its 22 principals, headed by Mr. Wallis Hunt, the chairman and father of James Hunt, the racing driver.

He will also try to recover any money owed from Farrington Stead: the legal process has already begun.

Since Hedderwick has a valuable asset in the short lease it holds on its premises at No. 1 Moorgate, opposite the Bank of England, it is possible that the eventual outcome could show that the firm is not insolvent and will be able to pay its creditors in full.

If not the compensation fund will be used to pay clients who have had normal business with Hedderwick but not jobbers or bank creditors. Those must simply take their place in the creditors queue.

Clients who believe they are owed money or stock from Hedderwick should, therefore, apply directly to Mr. Fidler who is working from Hedderwick's offices. A copy of the claim should also be sent to the Manager, Firms' Accounts, the Stock Exchange, London, EC2.

He will vet all applications carefully. Compensation is not paid where losses can be seen to be the result of poor investment management or negligence by clients or their trustees, only if they arise out of Hedderwick's failure.

As the dealing positions are unravelled, Mr. Fidler will put the jobbers involved directly in touch with Hedderwick's clients which owe money or stock to the market. The jobber will then try to "close" the positions directly.

Discretionary clients, for whom Hedderwick has been dealing without individual prior instructions, will have any transactions completed normally by a "friendly" broker, nominated by Mr. Fidler. And any losses will be evaluated and eventually made good if they arise out of the failure.

Meanwhile clients who wish to go on dealing must find a new broker.

Hedderwick, whose business had run down in the two years when it was under investigation by the Fraud Squad and the Stock Exchange (twice), had been on the point of merging with Quilter Hilton Goodison when the crash came.

Now Quilter is taking on members of Hedderwick as and when they have been cleared to move by Mr. Fidler. It has already employed 30 Hedderwick staff. It has also been asked by Mr. Hunt to act as "friendly" broker in conducting any dealings for clients during the liquidation.

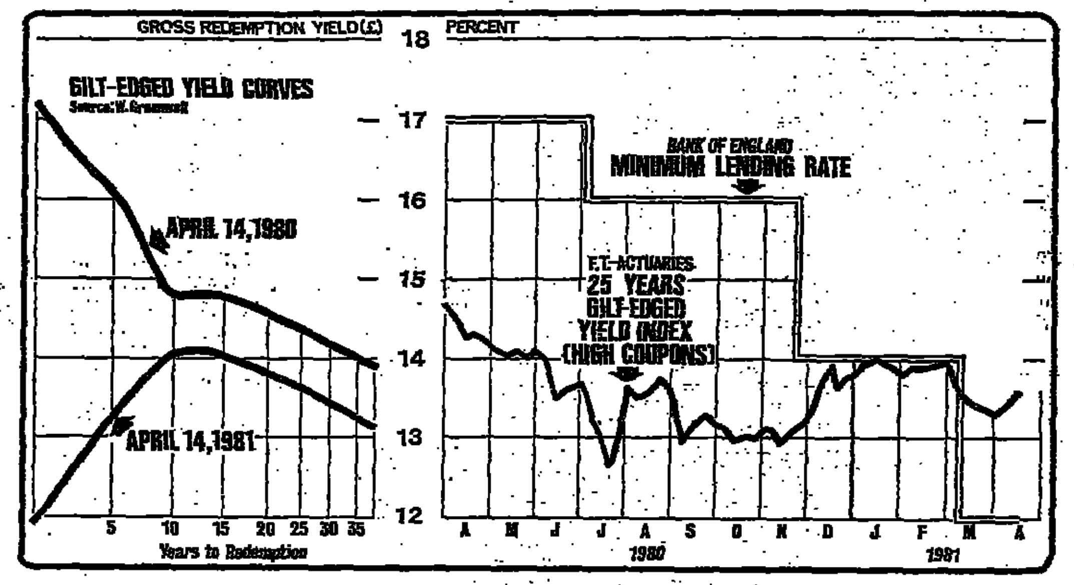
It is even possible that Quilter would eventually take on some of the 10 principals of Hedderwick it proposed to under the abortive member once they have been cleared of implication in the collapse and been re-admitted to membership of the exchange.

Many clients may feel that they will want to continue with the individuals they know and Mr. Fidler will be able to advise those who have moved to Quilter.

However, the letters of authorisation which many clients had already signed, permitting their business to be done by Quilter, are now null and void and new authorisations will be necessary.

Christine Moir

The shape of gilts



YIELD CURVES can provide hours of innocent amusement for financial voyeurs. They come in all shapes and sizes — long thin lines, interesting bumps or parabolic kinks — offering a simple visual commentary on the sentiments of the capital market.

The two curves in the left hand chart represent a snapshot of redemption yields available on gilt-edged securities on Tuesday this week and on the same day exactly a year ago.

A conventional yield curve is usually upward-sloping. This reflects the greater reward investors prepared to risk tying their money up over the longer term expect from a borrower. At the moment, as the chart shows, the yield curve partly conforms with this pattern.

A year ago, however, a very different, sharply downward-sloping curve was appearing through analysts' sights. With Minimum Lending Rate at 17 per cent, the Stock Market was convinced that MLR had peaked — investors were thus discounting short-term reductions in interest rates.

The similarities between the two curves, however, are perhaps as significant as the differences. These are that medium and long term bond redemption yields are still less than one percentage point below what they were a year ago. This may seem surprising given that MLR over the period is down from 17 to 12 per cent. The chart on the right, however, emphasises that MLR is of little practical importance at the long end of the market.

Long term gilt yields are influenced strongly by investors' expectations of the future level of interest rates and inflation. But an equally significant, and by no means unrelated factor, is the amount of government funding at any one time. According to Mr. Peter Scott, the economist at stockbrokers Carr Sebag, it is mainly "the oversupply of stock relative to institutional demand" which is responsible for the present level of long dated bond yields. Institutions, he says, have invested a large chunk of their cash flow over the years in gilt-edged and in view of the numbers involved it is necessary to offer them highly attractive returns to encourage them to take up more new stock.

Inflationary expectations are clearly influenced by the size of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement but Mr. Scott maintains that the market is still reasonably confident about the future direction of interest rates and the rate of price increases.

Mr. Peter Chappell at stockbrokers Sheppards and Chase, feels there is still a big question mark about inflation. "In theory," he says, "We should see the yield curve steepen further as short-term rates come down but this has not really happened yet. There is, of course, always the fear that rates could conceivably go up again before they come down and that the Government might decide its policies are working and tap the short end of the market. In that event longs could outperform because there would be a possible shortage of supply."

Day-to-day gilt-edged investment is essentially a game between the Government Broker and the market, both of whom are trying to guess which way the other will jump. The hump in the middle of this week's yield curve, where the highest yields are now obtainable, reflects heavy and unwelcome medium term funding. In particular, market observers point to the unpopular Exchequer 12½ per cent 1990, which was rushed out shortly after the Budget. The medium term is a difficult area for the Government to exploit since big buyers like pension funds and insurance companies like 15 to 25-year terms to match their liabilities while other institutions like building societies are interested only in the short-dated stocks.

With building society liquidity likely to run down due to Government efforts to raise money through National Savings, demand at the short end of the market does not appear strong. That means pressure is likely to remain at the long end unless, of course, the authorities have the courage to issue another index-linked gilt-edged stock.

Tim Dickson

A Swiss view

A FOOTLOOSE investor touring Zurich banks with a suitcase of dollar bills this week would almost certainly have left the city with no clear idea of where to put his money. For the volatility of international interest rates and the confusing behaviour of the world's stock markets appear to have disconcerted even the composed and conservative Swiss.

"We think we are at a crossroads for the world economy," Dr. Enrico Clerici, investment manager of the Union Bank of Switzerland says. "We are faced with the first consistent attempt to break inflation. If it succeeds, the omens are very good for bonds and equitities."

But Dr. Clerici is not banking on success. He says he has become more optimistic about the markets but is still taking a very defensive position. "The uncertainty of the longer term is very high, so we are trying to play the intermediate trends correctly with quality and with highly marketable stocks."

At another bank, which prefers to remain anonymous in the true Swiss tradition, pessimism reigns. The investment manager here believes interest rates will remain high and volatile over the next few months.

He is also unenthusiastic about equities. "We have recommended our clients to reduce their equity positions by up to 10 percentage points in a managed portfolio," he says. Dr. Clerici, who believes that slower economic growth will allow interest rates to fall, is recommending a slight increase in both bond and equity positions on most portfolios.

The contrast of approaches is clearest in relation to the UK. Dr. Clerici thinks it is one of the world's most positive markets and cannot recall when the bank last had such a large UK position in its mutual funds. "We like Bowater, Commercial Union, Tesco, GEC, BTR, Associated Newspapers," Dr. Clerici says. "We think Mrs. Thatcher's policy has been more restrictive than she expected. She now has the opportunity to reflate."

Round at the anonymous bank, the opposite view prevails. "We have no reasonable explanation for why the UK market is where it is," the investment manager says. He also believes that sterling is overvalued in relation to the dollar. Speaking of his European portfolios, he says: "We deleted the pound on March 10."

Credit Suisse takes a patriotic approach. Herr Peter Glaser, an economist at the bank, believes that the Swiss franc will appreciate later in the year and is recommending a switch out of dollars. He is also optimistic about the local stock market.

Credit Suisse is not particularly enthusiastic about the UK but likes Canada and Australia. At UBS, Dr. Clerici says "Canada and Australia are the markets we like least." The same contrast in opinions applies to the U.S., where Dr. Clerici believes leadership has switched from energy and technology stocks, which were fashionable last year, to consumer-orientated shares, like Eastman Kodak and Procter and Gamble.

At Credit Suisse, the managers believe that the U.S. technology and energy stocks would be attractive if the market falls a little further.

On some matters, at least, there is a general consensus. The managers all agree, for example, that the Tokyo market looks fairly cheap on fundamental grounds—at least if there is a correction to the recent sharp run-up. And no-one likes Hong Kong. "We are not go-go players. We are conservative investors," one manager says. "Our principal aim must be to protect capital," says another. The Swiss may have their differences, but they all draw the line at Hong Kong.

John Makinson

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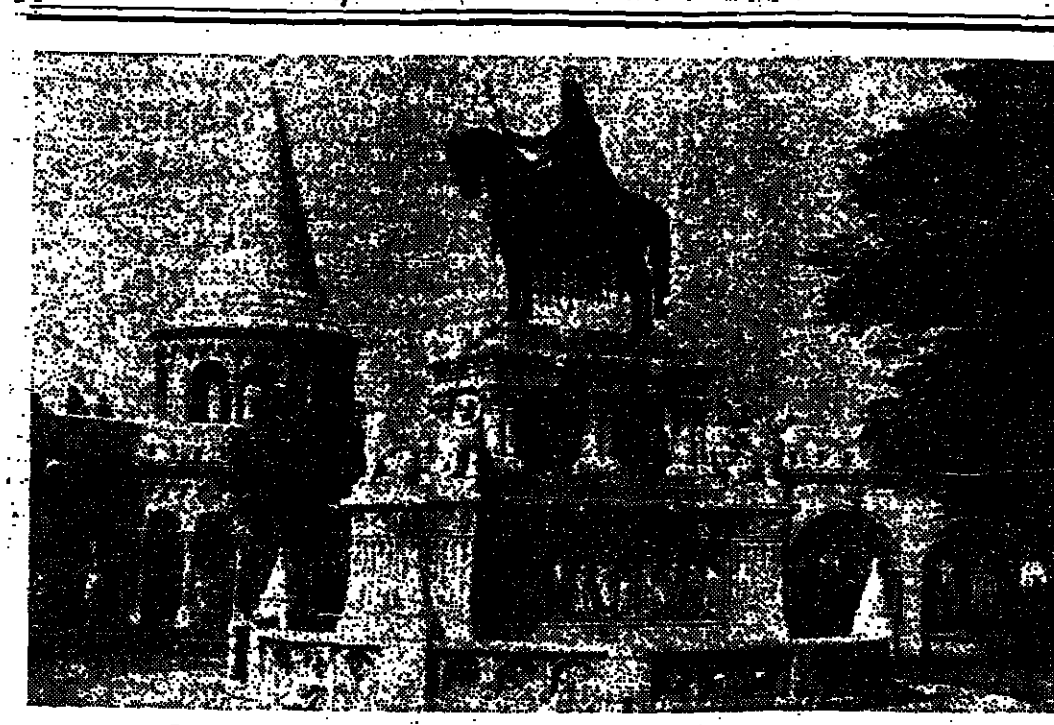
TRAVEL/PROPERTY



State of St. Stephen, King of Hungary, by the Fisherman's Bastion, Budapest

Budapest—in two parts

BY SYLVIE NICKELS

OUR YOUNG Hungarian friends were building themselves a house in the hills on the outskirts of Budapest. This kind of co-operative enterprise of several families combining to construct a block of private dwellings is actively encouraged these days, with generous loans available.

As we lurched over an unmade road towards it, however, our admiration was tinged with surprise for we had not thought of our friends as particularly addicted to do-it-yourself activities. Quite true, they said, but it was amazing how much you learned (and saved) by being general mate successively to a bricklayer, plumber, electrician, heating engineer, etc., etc. And since everyone in Hungary, it seems, has a friend who has a friend who knows a bricklayer, plumber, electrician, heating engineer, presumably unbound by resrictive practices, you are certain to get there in the end.

Over a selection of delicious Hungarian wines and fruit juices, we met another member of the "co-operative" who turned out to be running her own business duplicating dress patterns.

We had already noticed a good few small private shops and workshops throughout central Budapest; and registered, too, how crowded and animated were the cafés and restaurants, and how well-stocked the markets and supermarkets. A lot, indeed, had happened since my first visit in 1961.

It is a handsome city. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu who passed through it in 1717 would not recognise the place, for then its most beautiful buildings had been wholly destroyed in the sieges and battles that punctuated the Turkish occupation from 1541-1686. Of the castle, she wrote, "the Prospect is very noble" but beneath it, the people's "Houses stand in rows, many 1,000s of them so close together they appear at a little distance like odd fashion'd thatch'd Tents (consisting) every one of them, of one hovel above and another under ground."

It is remarkable how almost all traces of that Turkish occupation have disappeared, other than in museums. Indeed, there is far more to be seen of the Roman presence a millenium and a half earlier, when the Danube formed the northern boundary of their Empire and Aquincum was the capital of the province of Pannonia Inferior. Aquincum is on the northern outskirts of the city, with its own station on the electric suburban rail route. The Roman town, in which excavations continue, is well worth seeing.

The Danube waters many large cities, but for none of them does it form such an integral part as for Budapest whose very heart it has penetrated ever since hilly Royal Buda on the west bank finally became one with flat administrative Pest in 1873.

The British engineer Adam Clark was responsible in 1849 for completing the first bridge (the Chain Bridge, re-built like all of them since World War II). Undoubtedly, the grandest landmark on the Pest side is the neo-Gothic Parliament biulding, finally completed in 1902 and dominating the Danube shore line as emphatically as our own does the Thames.

Most of Pest dates from the late 19th century onwards. For greater age you must cross to Castle Hill, where the much-restored former royal palace is now a vast and splendid museum complex; the views from there and from the Matthias or "Coronation" Church and adjacent Fishermen's Bastion are some of the best of any European capital.

The Budapest Hilton has been allowed to be built in an angle between these last two landmarks, while its Duna Intercontinental rival dominates a section of the river bank almost opposite. Such, I suppose, is progress in the name of tourism.

The narrow streets that twirl up and down the Castle Hill district have many of the city's oldest houses and some of her most famous restaurants: but Pest can claim some of the finest churches, the smartest shops and several of the best coffee houses. Among the latter is Vorosmarty on the square of the same name, reminiscent of Vienna though at rather less than half Viennese prices.

This is a city from which to sightsee by road, rail or river. The Danube bend which lies just to the north contains some of Hungary's finest scenery and most concentrated history, for here stands once-royal Visegrad, and Esztergom, still the country's ecclesiastical capital in which much, much earlier Marcus Aurelius wrote the second volume of his Meditations.

On the way, only 12 miles from the city, Szentendre is an exceptionally attractive little town, founded by Serb refugees in the late 17th century, and now adopted by artists and craftsmen of all kinds. You can whizz round the Danube bend, and past Slovakia, on the hydrofoil service that links Budapest and Vienna. Or there is a rail route with a difference winding for eight miles into the Buda hills from Hűvösvölgy to Szechenyi-Hegy. It's run by the Pioneer youth organisation and none of its staff, apart from the engine driver, is more than 14 years old.

Budapest has another "plus" factor: the thermal springs of which the Romans and the Turks made full use and which qualify the Hungarian capital as a fully-fledged spa. The springs feed swimming pools all over the city, the most famous of them being those of the Gellert Hotel. Several others are scattered about the green oasis of Margaret Island in mid-Danube and it was in the balmy, open-air waters of one of these, the Palatinus, that I took refuge during one visit when an unseasonably chill wind sprang up to bite through summer clothing.

A week in Budapest this summer, with return flight, visa, half board and a sightseeing tour, costs about £230. Hungary does not impose a minimum daily expenditure rate like some of her neighbours.

Further information: Danube Travel Agency, 6 Conduit St., London W1.

Signs of life in Essex

BY JUNE FIELD

"THINGS HAVE gone mad up here—over the past few weekends we have been busier than we normally are in the summer," said one estate agent in the Essex area this week.

Most in demand are small timber-framed and weather-boarded cottages (typical of the countryside) still to be bought unmodernised for around £20,000 or so, and the slightly larger pink-washed period farmhouses some £50,000 and more. "Whether for holiday cottages, retirement use or commuter homes, the market here is fairly buzzing," commented Mr. John Gibson, partner in Savills' Chelmsford office, who only deal with country properties.

A large part of Essex, stretching out to north of Colchester, is commuter-land. Mr. Gibson's definition of commuting areas is: "Those in which house-owners can drive at speed to the station, park their cars, catch the fastest train by the skin of their teeth, and be in Liverpool Street in 60 minutes after leaving their front door." He also mentioned the dramatic effect the M11 has had on the values of the properties along its length, particularly near the Harlow and Bishops Stortford turn-offs. "During the past two years virtually all the properties which made exceptional prices were in motorway country, whether semi-detached cottages or mansions."

But there are also a number of "overblown cottages" on the market, not selling because the prices are too high, says Mr. Gibson. "Quite a few people have bought traditional three-bedroomed cottages and extended them. The relatively high costs of purchasing the property in the first place and the extra cost of building on, means that a particularly good price has to be achieved in order to recoup their investment. The price demanded on resale is usually close to that asked for a larger farmhouse which has the same or better accommodation, and more land."

The other factor which is having an effect on the property market in Essex is, of course, Stanstead Airport. At present the problem is blighting parts of North West Essex, but assuming that major expansion does take place, there will obviously be a huge demand for all types of property within a reasonable driving distance of the airport.

Sworders of Bishops Stortford, which is really Hertfordshire, with offices in Harlow, Chipping Ongar and Saffron Walden in Essex and two in Suffolk, also refer in their recent property market report to the effect of Stanstead. "The airport is a very controversial topic and local feeling is strongly divided. Many are bitterly opposed on environmental grounds, but others feel that any development of the airport will benefit the area."

Mr. D. R. Hughes of Strutt and Parker's Chelmsford office, finds that generally for the better type of house—that is, from £75,000 to £120,000—there has been a definite increase in the amount of interest shown. "There are now people in the market, either financed by their companies, or those fortunate enough to have sold, who are able to buy. They know that they are in a very strong purchasing position, and, with a surfeit of properties available, they know exactly how much they will have to pay, and what is good value at the present time. Vendors must therefore still be very realistic in their asking price if they wish to sell."

At Abbotsleigh, South Woodham Ferrers, new town eight miles from the county town of Chelmsford, the family firm of Luck (Dennis, Lawrence and Peter), are building three- and four-bedroom homes, detached, semi-detached or in short, staggered terraces. The houses, with their interesting brick-work features such as corbels supporting the eaves, matching mortars and hand-made facing bricks, are from £22,450 to about £37,450. Details from the show house, usually open Saturday and Sunday, Monday, Thursday and Friday 11 to 3 (including Easter), or from Mr. Peter Kendal, D. L. and P. Luck, Astra House, 30 Astra Close, South End Road, Hornchurch, Essex (Hornchurch 45076).

Grasslands, Stanway, is a Broseley Homes' new development on the western outskirts of Colchester (£25,950 to £37,350, show houses generally open 10-5 Monday, Thursday and Friday): while the sales office at Wimpey Homes, Crittall Road, Witham, Essex (Witham 512929), will supply details of 14 home sites in the area at prices ranging from £18,395 to £67,750. And Countryside Properties, 81-87 Billericay, Essex (02774 22686) are offering both a moving-in allowance or part-exchange schemes on their £115,000-homes at Audleigh Place, Chigwell.

Along the front at Clacton-on-Sea, on Marine Parade East, well past the Bingo Arcade and "Europe's Largest Fun Pier," I saw an attractive new block, Ambleside Court, with apartments from £28,400 to £33,750. It is a splendid position, and the accommodation, with its views of the sea, should get any sun that is going. The specially built show-flat at the side is viewable most days 11 am to 6 pm (including the holiday weekend), but check on Clacton 20555, or contact Mr. Roger Lake, sales director, Barratt Developments (Anglia), 69-75 Thorpe Road, Norwich (0603 616127), for current availability, as many apartments have already been sold.

For free copies of special property reports for East Anglia (which roughly covers Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk), contact Mr. Gibson, Savills, 136, London Road, Chelmsford, Essex (0245 69311), Mr. D. R. Hughes, Strutt and Parker, Tindal House, Tindal Square, Chelmsford (0245 84684), or their Ipswich and Norwich offices, and Mr. Robert Ward-Booth, Sworders, Chequers, 19, North Street, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (0279 5244).

Lime Tree Cottage, which dates back about 400 years, is close to the 18-hole Kempshott Park Golf Course, about a mile away from the M3 in a Hampshire village. The recently re-thatched picture book cottage has 3 bedrooms. Pearsons, Walcote Chambers, High Street, Winchester, Hants (9826 64444), are asking £65,000 for the freehold.

The 17th century timber-framed Watermans End Cottage, in 1½ acres near the village of Matching Green, near Harlow, has 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, plus a 70 foot long "party room," and 4 large loose boxes. John Gibson, Savills, 136 London Road, Chelmsford, Essex (0245 69311), is inviting offers in the region of £125,000.

Looking to Epsom

RACING

DOMINIC WIGAN

FAIRY FOOTSTEPS accomplished her Nell Gwyn Stakes task with near effortless ease at Newmarket on Thursday and bookmakers, with the filly's classics very much in mind, reacted accordingly. Most impressed by her performance were Ladbrokes, who slashed her odds for the 1,000 Guineas and Oaks to 5 to 4 and 9 to 4 respectively.

They offer only 3 to 1 against her pulling off the double, a feat achieved by only the Noel Murless pair, Altesse Royale (1971) and Mysterious (1973), since another Murless filly Petite Etoile, combined with Never Too Late II and Sweet Solera to exclude all other fillies from the winners' enclosures in those classics during the period, 1959-61.

A Warren Place filly (as were Petite Etoile, Altesse Royale and Mysterious), Fairy Footsteps was never threatened in Thursday's race, after pulling her way to the front early on and Sir Noel Murless's son-in-law, Henry Cecil found his pre-race forecast—"There is no way she will be beaten"—being justified to the hilt. Although he is not one to make similar judgments over the outcome to as tricky a race as a classic, Cecil must now feel more than confident that he has found a filly to follow One in a Million, who took the trial en route to an even-money success in the 1,000 Guineas.

If, following that classic, Fairy Footsteps can secure the double at Epsom, her success will prove one of the most popular results ever recorded on an English racecource, for she is owned and bred by octogenerian Mr. Jim Joel, who has won all the classics bar the Oaks. In his 50-odd years as an owner, Mr. Joel has been responsible for classic winners in Royal Palace, Picture Play, and Light Cavalry, who have been descendants of Fairy Footsteps' fifth dam, Amuse.

Whatever the fate of Fairy Footsteps in the classics, it seems probable that her dam, Glass Slipper, will join her own dam and grand-dam, Crystal Palace and Queen of Light, as one of Europe's most celebrated brood mares of all time. The 12-year-old Glass Slipper has been represented to date by two runners—Crystal Coach and Light Cavalry.

This afternoon at Kempton, Galveston, may be up to maintaining William Hastings-Bass's useful start to the season, with a win in the Rosebery stakes, while I shall not be in the least surprised to see Fabulous Salt get off the mark at the first time of asking in the Masaka stakes. Fabulous Salt, a chestnut filly by Le Fabuleux out of the Round Table mare, Morgaise, has been showing notable potential at Newmarket.

KEMPTON
1.30—Nunsruler
2.00—Noalto*
2.30—Galveston**
3.00—Dawn Johnny
3.30—Fabulous Salt***
4.00—Portogon

HAYDOCK
3.00—Indian Trail
4.30—Video Tape

HOTELS

TRAVEL

PUBLIC NOTICES

DERBY CITY COUNCIL BILLS
£1,500,000 due 15th July 1981. Issued 15th April 1981, at a rate of 11[illegible] per annum. Applications totalled £6,000,000. These are the only Bills outstanding.

BOOKS

One man band

BY GEORGE MALCOLM THOMSON

Like It Was
A selection from the diaries of Malcolm Muggeridge
Collins. £9.95, 560 pages

Reading someone's diary, one slowly builds up a portrait of the writer, piece by piece, very vivid, but of course not necessarily true. Malcolm, I decided, is trying to be a saint and not quite succeeding. Every now and then, mercifully, humanity breaks through. He looks rather like a refugee from a torture chamber with a touch of Popeye the Sailor. His accent comes from one of the smarter universities. What he says is delivered in a voice which makes one think of a wasp playing the flute.

He is saved from perfection by humour and malice. Self-righteousness is not his weakness. He looks at the human comedy with amusement and disapproval. He talks brilliantly. His judgments are severe, often unexepcted, sometimes dotty. Everything that has lately happened in the world confirms him in the alarming views he formed *during the decisive visit he paid* to Russia in 1932. Certainly, he would be the last person in the world to be surprised by recent *revelations about* MI5.

Here he is, then, observant, acute, on one day watching an *infinitely* dreary Communist Rally "for peace" in Trafalgar Square: "While the clergymen and other were standing for the minute's silence felt nostalgic for Uncle Joe Stalin who can at least be relied on to sweep such canaille into oblivion." On another day, in the same month, he picks up a remark of P. G. Wodehouse's who, on a visit to the Zoo, saw a baboon with a particularly flamboyant behind and said that it was wearing the school colours at the wrong end.

At the memorial service to Duff Cooper he sees—as was to be *expected*—many attractive women in the congregation, "who'd fluttered round Duff Cooper circle" and decides that the service (Onward Christian Soldiers and For All *the Saints*) *truly reflected* the character of the departed,—"sentimentality, charm of a sort vulgarity." There is a snapshot of Evelyn Waugh at Pratt's

—"quite ludicrous figure, extraordinarily like a loquacious woman with a dinner jacket cut like a maternity gown to hide his bulging stomach . . . very genial, probably pretty plastered."

Waugh appears again, in deep *mourning for the King of* Sweden: as an officer in the Blues, he felt bound to obey Court regulations of a week's *mourning*. During a lovingly described visit to Max Beerbohm at Rapallo, Muggeridge reports many good things said by Max—of Shaw, for instance, who had no interest whatever in art or poetry, "*not even in human* beings." Max first read the headlines in the newspaper and, if the news was bad, did not read on: "it was *absurd* to worry about matters which one could not influence." With this Muggeridge agreed heartily.

Denis Brogan is "an extraordinary example of a man of outstanding intelligence whose company is completely boring." Quentin Hogg, "plump figure wearing boots" makes a brief appearance, as does Monty, medal ribbons to the knees, "despite maniacal egotism, a certain sweetness." The last words of Arnold Bennett are reported to Muggeridge by his great friend, the late *Hugh Kingsmill*. They were spoken to Bennett's mistress, "obviously rather a tedious woman," and found by *Muggeridge to be* "very *sad* and touching": "Everything is going wrong, my girl." By coincidence, the last words of H. G. Wells were almost the same.

There are, of course, longer accounts of men (such as Anthony Powell) with whom he was more closely associated, but naturally the figure who bulks largest is the diarist himself.

This is a long, spiritual pilgrimage: the customary adultery (not over-stressed; repentence implied); his love for his noble wife, Kitty; their children, one of whom seems all set to become an evangelical preacher; his profound pessimism about the way the world is going; search for a faith, leading inevitably to its discovery:

"*I have come fully to realise* that here truly as the Epistle to the Hebrews tells us, we have no continuing city and find *myself* increasingly preoccupied with seeking one to come."

While the search goes on, the seeker has written an account of his journey which reminds the reader that here is a man of supreme integrity who is one of the great wits and dynamic personalities of the day.

Malcolm Muggeridge: trying to be a saint

The roar of greasepaint

BY ALAN FORREST

Mr. Lonely by Eric Morecambe. Eyre Methuen. £5.95. 190 pages

Eric Morecambe is part of all my yesterdays. Our first encounter, which he probably *prefers to forget, was at the* Bradford Mechanics' Institute (then serving as a not very up-market variety theatre) in the 1940s. Now, years of TV fame and several heart attacks later, he offers this book.

The life of a comedian by a comedian is still uncharted territory in fiction. Harry Secombe and Les Dawson have tried it. Mr. Morecambe's book is enjoyable—although he will be a better writer (and I'm told he has other books in store) when he realises that a comedian doesn't necessarily have to be funny all the time when he goes into print.

He tells us about Sid Lewis, a typical grass-roots comic, and his rise from being excruciatingly unfunny in an East Finchley night club, through TV fame to Las Vegas where, for a British comic, he doesn't do *too badly*. The prologue is a series of what the business calls, one-liners, a kind of TV script designed to be read as literature.

After that, it gets better. Mothers-in-law, sex and bacon and eggs figure largely, but *there are nice moments, too*—Sid's encounter at a TV promotion junket with an upper-class TV programme secretary who takes him home to bed, while his wife, telephoned to be told he'll be late at the studio, grumbles and continues her affair with his accountant.

Mr. Lonely is a promising book. *The best bits* show the bleakness and sourness of a comedian's life. Sid is no broken-hearted clown, but you get the impression that he might be if he tries harder. Any book that begins: "Sid Lewis came into this world *exactly the same way as any* other child. He weighed 8½ lbs and had a shock of black hair. The trouble was, as he used to *say, 'It wasn't on my head, it* was all under my left arm.'" is bound to get better.

"What do you think of it so far. . . ?"

Kew Gardens and the modern way with alpines

GARDENING

ARTHUR HELLYER

THE CERMONIAL *opening* by Mr. Patrick Walker of a new greehouse for alpine plants in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is symbolic of the vast advance in our understanding of the requirements of such plants since Victorian gardeners first discovered that many of them were both beautiful and highly garden worthy and not simply quaint little plants of interest only to students of botany. We have moved a long way from the minature Matterhorns and other reconstructions of natural rock formations which were originally believed to be essential to the successful cultivation of most alpine plants. So far from making ideal environments for them, most such constructions proved death traps for all but the toughest kinds and have now either been dismantled or turned to quite different uses as one may see in the exceptionally beautiful example of "natural" rock garden making at Sizergh Castle near Kendal, now lovingly preserved by The National Trust.

What the Kew alpine house brings home to one most forcibly is that there is no single "right" way to grow alpines since there is no unifying link between them except that, if one accepts the description "alpine" literally, all come from mountains. In fact even that vague connection has long since been abandoned by gardeners who accept as alpines almost any small plants which *naturally inhabit rocky places* even though they may be at sea level. They are to be found in the Arctic, where for much of the year they are completely dormant and crowd their brief period of annual growth into a short period of almost continuous daylight, or they may be equatorial and upset by any marked departure from a continuous balance between the length of night and day. Some may enjoy superabundant moisture when they are growing because snow is constantly melting on the mountain slopes above them and yet at other times be kept almost completely dry beneath a deep and sheltering cover of snow.

At Kew provision has been made for all these peculiarities including a refrigerated bench with supplementary lighting for the cultivation of some of the most difficult plants. It is even possible to increase the long wave radiation which is characteristic of Polar regions and without which some plants fail to retain their natural compact habit.

Of course one can grow rock plants without any of these facilities as hundreds of thousands of rock plant enthusiasts can testify. In fact I think one of the difficulties some gardeners experience are caused by the fact that they start, quite sensibly, with plants that are so easy to manage that it is virtually impossible to go wrong with them; arabis, for example, aubrietias, helianthemums and many of the sedums Encouraged by their success with these they pass on to others that, though not really difficult in the eyes of alpine enthusiasts, do require conditions not found in most gardens without special preparations. Now that garden centres are offering a much wider range of rock plants than was customary even a few years ago I think it would be wise for wholesale producers to follow the example of the best house plant firms by *printing labels* which not only give the correct name of each plant but also basic information about its requirements.

A high percentage of rock plants need good drainage and this can be true even of kinds that one may see in their native mountains flourishing in what appear to be almost bog conditions thanks to the volume of water streaming down from the melting snow. Closer inspection will usually reveal that, though the soil is very wet, it is also so open textured that the water is moving through it freely and never stagnates.

Another peculiarity of rock plants is that, though they are usually small above ground, their root systems can be extensive. They are prepared to go a long way in search of food and water and even in rock gardens which superficially appear to be well made they often only have a few inches of really congenial gritty soil, below which they may encounter stiff, poorly aerated, closely compacted soil that can be either far too wet or far too dry according to the prevailing weather.

I wrote a few weeks ago about the undesirability of using weather worn mountain limestone for conservation reasons, this being a scarce and beautiful material with its own flora which can be destroyed if it is ruthlessly dragged out by bulldozers. But there is another more subtle reason for preferring quarried stone, namely that one is not tempted to lay it, as the books always advise for weather worn stone, in such a way that its full beauty is revealed but is left free to place it for the greatest convenience of the plants that are to grow around it. Almost always this will be in a series of irregular terraces or steps, much as one can often see stratified rock emerging in roadside cuttings, with soil retained in shelves which are either level or slope gently backwards so that rain, falling on them, flows inwards to moisten the body of the soil (and it should be considerable) in which they are embedded and is not shot off forwards as from a roof. In the Kew alpine house Sussex sandstone has been used in just this way to provide a pleasing and natural looking setting for those plants that are to stay there more or less permanently.

Complete permance is rarely desirable for rock gardens or rock beds however they are constructed partly because the soil eventually becomes sick of them but also because it is all too easy for rock gardens to become invaded with perennial weeds that are difficult to eradicate without a thorough overhaul. I believe that the famous raised rock beds in the Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park are dismantled and remade about every seven or eight years and it is clearly an advantage to be able to do this whenever it is necessary. A raised rock bed retained by walls of unmortared stone or brick, or even railway sleepers, are a lot easier to empty and refill than a conventional rock garden, especially one of those rock garens of which an earlier generation of enthusiasts would boast that no stone weighed less than three hundredweight.

Only a proportion of the beds in the Kew alpine house are even planted in this semi-permanent way and some plants actually spend part of each year in cold store. Again this is not the kind of refinement one would expect to find in privately owned gardens but a great many alpine plant enthusiasts do grow some of their plants in earthenware pots or pans partly because this enables each to be given precisely the soil mixture experience has proved it most enjoys but also because it enables plants to be moved from one environment to another to suit its changing needs as the seasons pass. This method becomes virtually essential if one aspires to exhibit alpines at some of the many shows and competitions that are now organised for them by bodies such as the Alpine Garden Society and its Scottish counterpart.

There is every reason to suppose that alpines will continue to grow in popularity since they so admirably suit the declining scale of gardens, enabling owners of even quite tiny plots to enjoy a range of plants that would be the envy of many far larger gardens.

Osborne biscuits

BY RACHEL BILLINGTON

In Anger: Culture in the Cold War 1945-1960
by Robert Hewison. Weidenfeld and Nicholson. £9.95. 230 pages

"The word was giving way to the image and the old-style man of letters *was losing* ground . . . ." This, Robert Hewison's comment as he finally gets his grappling hook into 1960, summarises *one facet* of his book. The other presents the death-struggles of the politically committed artist. As he would have it, the Left gave way to the Right, to Christianity, to The Establishment and, finally, to nothing. As Elizabeth Bowen said, "Writers *should* keep out of pulpits and off platforms, and just write."

The decision to write a book like this gives the author a vested interest in change. It is a measure of Mr. Hewison's sensitivity that he strikes out for so little. Often as he recounts the hard lot of the novelist, of the publisher, of the small literary magazine, it seems to echo the despondent wails of today. Or maybe it's merely "plus ça change . . . ."

The success of the book rests on Mr. Hewison's ability to keep the balance between the broad sweep of his theme and the *mass of detail he uses to support it.* Opting for six large chapters with headings as general as "The God that failed" and "Culture and Society," he does sometimes seem in danger of sinking his boat in his own material. Not that the material is ever boring. Who could resist the information that good old John Lewis made its employees sign a declaration *against* Communism and sacked them if they wouldn't? The wealth of quotations are also fascinating *particularly when surviving public* figures speak from their disowned past.

But on the whole Mr. Hewison *makes most sense when* pin-pointing and analysing a particular target. He is very good on the BBC, on the changing face of the Third Programme which, despite the gloom of the times, seems to have been as *rich* as it *ever* is. He is interesting on the great Fifties obsession of The Establishment, although he finds it as difficult as it ever was to *prove its* existence. His linked discussion on the "Mandarin Culture" is even less convincing — at least for someone like myself who never knew it. He is excellent on that weird event called "The Festival of Britain" (memorable to me as to *many children for* winning a chic diploma — for hand-writing). He reflects kindly, too kindly perhaps, on the pictures and the booth architecture commissioned for the event.

The climax of the book comes, of course, with 1956. The climax of Suez and of Anger. "Amis and Wain prepared the stage for the Angry Young Man, *Colin Wilson* gave him an identity as the Outsider, John Osborne gave him a voice." This is not a typical sentence but one *can easily appreciate the satisfaction* in writing it. He goes on to discuss the naturalism and materialism that entered the new novel with reference to such writers as John Braine. This neatly supports his belief in the apolitical stance of the literary world.

Robert Hewison's previous book was *Under Siege*, a study of culture in wartime England. I would guess that was an easier proposition on two counts. Firstly, because born in 1945, it was pure history to him while *In Anger* must filter research through memory. Secondly, because *Under Siege* covered a shorter and more strongly defined period.

Nevertheless, he has raised with unostentatious seriousness, many *points* of literary history relevant to today. I look forward to his analysis of *The Swinging Sixties* when the changes he describes in this book came home to roost.

Fiction

Island treasure

BY ISOBEL MURRAY

The Book of Ebenezer Le Page
by G. B. Edwards. Hamish Hamilton. £7.50. 400 pages

John Fowles says in his Introduction to this novel, "There may have been stranger recent literary events than the book you are about to read, but I rather doubt it." He is right. It is unique, and one of a kind, and my excitement at the discovery is only muted by learning that the author G. B. Edwards died in 1976, and this is his only book.

So we have a one-off novel of Guernsey, in a prose mirroring the Guernsey patois—and the achievement is so intense and universal that the reader is rendered speechless. Ebenezer would interject that that was a fine thing for a reviewer.

And a short review cannot hope to convey the flavour of *The Book of Ebenezer Le Page*, but it can perhaps tell you a little about this gritty, knobbly, comic and serious, bandy-legged Guernseyman who sits down in his age to write his story and the stories of those he knew in the old days when life had more flavour, and fewer tourists.

For Ebenezer is brimful of *prejudices, and most of them* are about the modern age. Ebenezer was a teenager when his father died in the Boer War, *and he has lived through two* world wars. But he compares today's floods of tourists, unfavourably, to the German Occupation, and passionately denounces "that abomination of abominations, the TV." He admits to his prejudices, disarmingly enough, and his piquant generalisations strike something in every heart: "I think every improvement ought to be looked in the mouth first: to make sure it isn't an improvement for the worse."

These general statements convey a salty wisdom with the flavour of the eccentric Ebenezer. He says of his grandmother:

"*She went to Chapel regular*, but you would never have thought she was religious: she would do anything for *anybody, it didn't matter who* they was."

Praise for a lawyer who had an eye for a joke: "A gentleman, but he is a Guernseyman as well." A summary of the lawyer: "He can't help being a crook: he is a lawyer; but at heart he is an honest man."

Ebenezer is less concerned to *tell us of himself than about* the people he has cared about. These are the most serious and painful episodes. Those whom *he most loved were not mean* or self-serving, but he reflects without pride or bitterness, "I have always been a mean little sod myself."

In a way we see this is true—his first memory is of saving money in a money-box, and he saves money enthusiastically throughout the book. It is only when he is old that he begins to wonder about the point of laying up treasure *on* earth, and the last part of the book is greatly concerned with the difficulties of choosing an *appropriate heir: this* takes us back to the very first chapter, where a demented great-aunt failed in such a quest, and tried *to burn her fortune note by* note.

Ebenezer has chosen money as a safer idol than love, and he suffers for it, but the book is here as elsewhere richly comic, and much fun is made of his quasi-innocent lawbreaking. He outwits the Germans by frantically chasing his pig to his neighbour's sty, so that no one is punished for *illicit* slaughter. When he is paid by the Guernsey States for keeping an ancient monument in order, he applies to and *is* paid by three separate committees for the same job.

The comedy endears Ebenezer to us, and he does not spare himself—witness the scenes where he is the small and bandy-legged prey of a determined widow with a wooden leg! He loves a joke more than anything, and finally chooses his heir—"he laughs at a Guernsey joke!" Asked for his reasons further, he says, "He is not a sheep."

This heir is a painter. He says: "All I want to paint is the real feel of the actual thing in front of me. I will never get to it, I know; but I can try." This seems to me the attitude of the novelist G. B. Edwards, and in an extraordinary way I think he has succeeded in writing a great novel.

Space colonies

BY MARY HOPE

The Sirian Experiments
by Doris Lessing. Jonathan Cape. £6.95. 288 pages

There has never been any doubt at all about the gravity of Doris Lessing. Since the day she arrived in England 30 years ago with the manuscript of *The Grass is Singing*, she has been one of our greatest contemporary writers. Significantly, her earlier works were marked not only by high seriousness of purpose, but also by complete control of detailed description: the creation of imaginative worlds securely based in her African upbringing. Few writers have tackled such mighty political and philosophical themes with such a passionate anchorage in the everyday life of the senses. The fact the *Children of Violence* and *The Golden Notebook* were so firmly rooted in a totally realised imaginative extension of a detailed "real world" was part of their great power.

With the *Canopus in Argos* sequence currently in progress, she has invented a new cosmology to look at the world in a new way: *she is attempting* to tackle nothing less than all human life on earth, recreating myths (as in *The Marriage Between Zones Three, Four and Five*, the previous, and more successful volume) or, in the present work, seeking the roots and consequences of action. But, regrettably, she has stepped from solid ground straight into the quicksands of strained invention. One cannot deny the power of her visionary intent: a galaxy ruled by the conflicting forces of Sirius, the experimental colonisers who are in constant conflict with Canopus, the wiser, kinder organisers and Shammat, the evil influences.

The story is told by Ambien 11, a female bureaucrat of the Sirian Empire, who both is and is not, as it turns out, in charge of events in the Sirian-colonised areas of Rohanda (or "earth" to you). She gradually realises that it is the Canopean and not the Sirian empire which rules the galaxy: the Sirian experiments in colonisation come to nought; her fellow Sirians banish her: but she has seen something of the truth.

The trouble with this grand design is that action, character, description are all cloudy and inexact. Visionary space journeys over the unhappy colonised planet give way to dessicated philosophical discussions. The big issues are all there: chance, necessity, and their relationship with free-will: the basic question of the epic: the struggle between good and evil. The comparison with *Paradise Lost* comes to mind, which says something for the power of Doris Lessing's intentions but, because he was dealing with certitudes (as well as being Milton) Milton did it rather better.

The problem of all space fiction is the difficulty of creating convincing detailed worlds: this indubitably important enterprise fails to lift off because of insufficient fuelling of the imaginative boost. Only when there are nuggets of concrete reference to the known world does the whole thing come alive: *otherwise it is* a hard slog through forbidding terrain. There are occasional felicities: the beautiful planet, Rohanda, with its seasons, is a unique and coveted haven for Sirians suffering from "the existentials," a dangerous depressive cosmic angst or *galaxyschmerz* where the problem is always "*who* should use *what* and *how much* and *when* and *what for?* Above all, *what for?*"

This, the basic theme of the book is, of course, closely linked with the whole question of colonialism, which is one of the other great concerns of the author, as she has shown time and again elsewhere. But, unlike the earlier works, this narrative does not drive, the ideas are insufficiently clad, the occasional wit is laboured. The enterprise commands respect and discussion, but not great enthusiasm, even from a devoted admirer of this great author. This time, all human life is not here.

Winston's girl

BY VALERY McCONNELL

Keep on Dancing
by Sarah Churchill. Weidenfeld *and Nicholson. £7.95. 243 pages*

Sarah Churchill, second daughter of Winston, admits in this autobiography "*Keep on Dancing*" to having a strong "ham" instinct. This led to her moderately successful career as an actress and dancer —*she starred in films, danced* with Fred Astaire, played Peter Pan and staged a one-woman show. Her private life however, is even more theatrical—a mixture of melodrama and tragedy.

She first made the headlines with her marriage, at 22, to the much older Vic Oliver, the comedian. The marriage ended in divorce. Her second husband, society photographer Anthony Beauchamp, committed suicide and her third, Lord Audley, died of a cerebral haemorrhage not long after their wedding. Between her *second and third marriages she* made numerous court appearances for drunkenness and eventually ended up in Holloway.

Yet her traumatic life is not reflected in her style of writing. It is chirpy and breezy and dashes through the awful moments of her life with a desperate "the show must go *on*" determination. This hardy, if reckless, optimism comes through clearly in her wartime letters to her mother, which she quotes from extensively. She accompanied her father to the Tehran and Yalta conferences and writes these words about Stalin: "Uncle Joe is a great man—of that there can be no doubt—he also has a great sense of humour."

The letters are interesting for the insights they give into the difficulties of keeping that great war machine, Churchill *himself, in action*; a constant round of pills, whisky, naps and cossetting. Like her father she seems to have enjoyed the war. *Also like him* she enjoyed her drink and being the centre of attention—even if the attention was not always complimentary.

Considering the amount of pain in her life, there is surprisingly little evidence of deep self-reflection, but refreshingly, *the book* is also free from any attempt at self-justification. She simply seems never to have known just when to call it a *day—another* trait that she shared with her father.

Barsetshire brought to life

BY PETER KEATING

Trollope and his Illustrators
by N. John Hall. Macmillan. £20. 175 pages

The Victorian novelist most immediately associated with book illustrations is Dickens. Of course, the drawings by Cruikshank and "Phiz" were dependent on Dickens for their inspiration, but they have played so important a part in how we visualise Dickens' world that they have become inseparable from the novels. As N. John Hall points out in *Trollope and his Illustrators*, we do not usually think of Trollope at all in this context.

Yet 15 of Trollope's novels were illustrated, several of them by the Pre-Raphaelite painter John Everett Millais, and, as Professor Hall argues, that collaboration produced some of the most *distinguished* book illustrations of the Victorian age. One reason for this success was that Trollope and Millais shared a *similar commitment* to artistic realism; another was Millais's willingness to follow the guidance offered by Trollope's text. But more important than either was the brilliance, and occasional daring, of Millais's design. It is significant that the only illustration by Millais that Trollope really disliked—that of Lucy Robarts in *Framley Parsonage* lying unhappily on a bed, the shape of her body hidden by a mountainous bustle —now comes over as one of the most imaginative and unconventional. Trollope could never quite bring himself to "forget the flounced dress," as he himself put it, but Millais's superb work for *Orley Farm, The Small House at Allington*, and *Phineas Finn*, soon won him over.

The collaboration ended when Millais began to concentrate entirely on producing lucrative paintings. Trollope tried other illustrators, notably "Phiz" who made the characters in *Can You Forgive Her?* look as if they had strolled across from a Dickens novel, and Marcus Stone who made some excellent drawings for *He Knew He Was Right*, but none of them was ever to match Millais. Professor Hall offers just the right balance between narrative and analysis, making *Trollope and his Illustrators* both scholarly and enjoyable to read: the book contains more than 80 full-page illustrations and they have been splendidly produced.

HOW TO SPEND IT

by Lucia van der Post

Small ideas

THE Benetton shops have been one of the outstanding successes of the last few years. Started in Italy as recently as 1966, the four Benetton brothers now have about 1,500 shops in Western Europe, all selling the same relaxed, easy-to-wear clothes, based on the same simple formula. It's a formula that seems certain to go on succeeding and was originally modelled, according to the brothers, *on le style Anglais*.

There is simple, classic knitwear, matching shirts, skirts, jackets, trousers and T-shirts, all based on natural fibres in clever colours which is the hallmark of the Benetton style. The chief joy of the collection is its colouring and the way in which so many of the garments work together. One of the other features of the range is its reasonable prices which are possible because production in Italy is now on such a large scale.

Those adults who have long admired the Benetton style will now be able to dress their children in a similar way. Because the Benetton style is so simple and based on a relaxed and casual look it seems particularly appropriate for children.

In Italy the Benetton range for children was one of the first to bridge the gap between old-fashioned elegant clothes and chain-store numbers. They offer a style that is casual, yet not based on the eternal denims. There are heavenly colours—lots of ice-cream pastels like pistachio green, sugar pink, banana yellow. As with adults, children can find a whole collection of things that can be used together to give endless different outfits. There will be short-sleeved T-shirts at £4.30, dungarees at £16.60, cotton Bermudas at £9.30, cotton shirts at £9.50, T-shirt dresses (like the one photographed right) are £11, T-shirt striped skirts at £7.60, elasticated trousers for £14.50 and lambswool V-neck jumpers at £8.

All the clothes are aimed at 2- to 12-year-olds and cater for boys as well as girls. For the moment there is just one Benetton children's shop. Called 012, it is newly opened at 22, South Molton Street, London W1 but more are planned for later on.

James Wedge

A completely different look, much less classic, much more redolent of Barbara Hulanicki's sense of high style, is a children's shop called Minirock which opened last Monday at 88, King's Road, London SW3. Open Monday to Friday until 8 pm and on Saturdays until 6 pm it is the second of Barbara Hulanicki's retail ventures since she returned to this country and is devoted to clothes for girls between the ages of 12 and 16 years old.

Barbara Hulanicki sees her market as the children of Biba's original customers and has designed a complete collection for them, using plenty of lace, broderie Anglaise, khaki, denim, canvas and leopard. She aims to make dressing fun and has put in lots of accessories—like ear-rings, bags and belts. Here, in the small picture above, is one of the "looks" on sale. Shorts in lots of colours are £10.99, the T-shirt is £5.99, while the canvas boots (in a choice of six pastel colours, as well as denim) are £19.99. The scarf is £3.99 and the Panama hat £3.65.

Sweetness and light

BY JULIE HAMILTON

TEA and cakes were a daily ritual in the house of a very dignified Edwardian aunt with whom I spent my childhood summer holidays. But I did not carry the habit into my adult life, nor do my children enjoy such afternoon delights.

So my cakes are nearly always served as desserts although they could be eaten with tea if that is your life-style. As dinner party desserts these recipes are ideal because they will serve at least 10 to 12 people, or even more if they follow a large, rich meal.

First, a rather special cake which requires a great number of eggs and leaves you with seven spare egg whites which can be used in the second recipe. Both require hazel nuts. Bohemian cake cannot be made in a hurry but it is well worth the trouble.

Those who wish to explore the matter of cakes further might like to buy the Good Housekeeping Complete Book of Cakes and Pastries (£5.95) from which this illustration is taken. Its recipes are mouthwatering enough to tempt even non-cake eaters to indulge.

Bohemian cake

For the cake: 6 eggs; 2 oz flour; 2½ oz ground hazel nuts; 7 oz caster sugar.

For the cream filling: 7 egg yolks; 2½ oz ground hazel nuts; 7 oz granulated sugar; 6 oz chocolate (Menier or Bournville); 5 oz butter; a few drops of vanilla essence; 3 fluid oz cream.

For the chocolate covering: 8 oz chocolate (Menier or Bournville); 3 tablespoons brandy; 1 oz butter; 12 or so frosted primroses.

Separate the eggs, cream the yolks with the sugar until light and frothy. Fold in the ground hazel nuts (they can be ground in a coffee grinder, no need to blanch them), flour and stiffly whipped egg whites.

Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 4 (350F). Lay a piece of Bakewell paper on your largest baking tray and draw a rectangle. Spread half the mixture thinly on it and bake for approximately 15 minutes. Slide it off the tray to cool on a flat surface. Repeat the process. When cool, cut each cake into three, giving you six oblongs. Trim the edges neatly.

To make the cream, melt the 7 oz sugar in two tablespoons of water over a low heat. Pull aside to cool. Soften the chocolate and butter. When the sugar has cooled, stir in the egg yolks, hazel nuts, chocolate and butter.

Place the mixture over a saucepan of boiling water and stir without stopping until thickened. Cool it, then stir in the cream which you have whipped with the few drops of vanilla essence. Spread this mixture on the cake layers and pile them neatly one on the other, leaving the top bare.

Chill well, or even place in the freezer. When fully set, cover all over with the chocolate which has been melted over a low heat with the butter and brandy. Decorate with the frosted flowers.

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With those left-over egg whites, provided they are so thoroughly whipped that they are especially stiff, you can make a very simple cake. It is moist and if it sinks a little as it comes out of the oven, as mine has sometimes done, do not worry. You can disguise it with the topping and the taste will not be marred.

Hazel nut cake

8 egg whites; ½lb caster sugar; 4 oz ground hazel nuts; 3½ oz finely chopped mixed peel; 1 tablespoon flour; 5 oz cream; juice of ½ lemon; 1 teaspoon icing sugar.

Beat the egg whites, adding the sugar, until very stiff indeed. Take your time over it. Fold in the flour, hazel nuts and mixed peel.

Pour into a buttered cake tin and bake in a pre-heated oven at gas mark 4 (350F) for about 40 minutes. When cold, whip the cream with the lemon and icing sugar and spread over the top. If you want to decorate, try glazed hazel nuts.

The next cake is known simply as Favourite and every time I make it I wonder whose favourite it originally was. It has a rather special texture and a distinctive taste.

Someone's favourite

For the cake: 6 eggs; 4 oz fine toasted breadcrumbs; 4 oz ground walnuts; 4 oz caster sugar; 4 oz butter.
***For the filling:* 4 oz ground walnuts; 4 oz caster sugar; 3 oz cream; 1 tablespoon brandy.**

For the top: simple chocolate icing.

The breadcrumbs should be *freshly toasted and finely* ground. Cream the sugar, butter and egg yolks thoroughly together. Stir in the ground walnuts and breadcrumbs. Whip the egg whites until stiff and fold them in, too. Grease an oblong cake tin such as would hold a large Swiss roll (you have to cut the cooked cake in half lengthwise, not split it in half as for a sandwich) and spread the mixture evenly in it. Bake for approximately 25-30 minutes at gas mark 4 (350F).

To make the cream, combine the walnuts with the sugar and brandy, whip the cream as stiffly as you can and add to the walnut mixture.

When the cake is cold, halve as already described and spread the cream very thickly on one half. If your cake tin is not large enough, the surface area will not take all the cream filling, nor will the cooking time be long enough. In that case halve the quantity of cream filling and lengthen the cooking time by 15 minutes.

Glaze the top of the cake with chocolate icing.

Hungarian cheese cake

3 oz butter; 4½ oz flour; 1 large egg yolk; 1 heaped teaspoon caster sugar; approx. 3½ fluid oz sour cream; 10 oz curd cheese; 8 eggs; ½ lb caster sugar; drop of vanilla essence.

Work the butter into the flour, add the egg yolk, sugar and enough sour cream to form a stiff dough. Knead it a little and divide it into three. Grease a deep, loose-bottomed nine-inch cake tin. Roll out one third of the pastry and line the bottom of the tin. Prepare the filling as follows: push the cheese through a sieve, add the egg yolks and sugar and thoroughly combine, flavouring with vanilla. Beat the egg whites until very stiff and fold them into the cheese mixture. Pour half of this into the cake tin.

Roll out the second piece of pastry and place it on top of the cheese mixture. Cover with the rest of the cheese. Then roll out the final piece of pastry and place it on top, pressing it down lightly with your palm.

Bake in a moderate oven at gas mark 4 (350F) for one hour. Remove carefully from the cake tin and sprinkle caster sugar over it. This cake is delicious served warm or cold.

●

I have long tried to find a recipe for passion cake (carrot cake, in fact). I would love to hear from anyone who has a good recipe for it.

The other night I dreamt I was making it. In the morning I recalled the dream and made hasty notes. I went to work and, although not an orthodox passion cake it included carrots. It was a moist chocolate cake with a hardly noticeable carrot flavour and a delicious texture.

Julie's carrot cake

½ lb cooked carrots; 3½ oz chocolate (Menier); 6 eggs; 1 tablespoon black treacle; 3 level tablespoons caster sugar; 2 heaped tablespoons flour; juice of ½ lemon.

Push the carrots through a fine sieve. Separate the eggs. Cream the yolks with the sugar. Melt the chocolate in the lemon juice, cool and add to the carrots along with the black treacle. Then combine with the egg mixture. Whip the egg whites until very stiff and fold them into the mixture, sprinkling in the flour at the same time. Line a cake tin with Bakewell paper and bake for approximately one hour at gas mark 4 (350F). Cover with lemon-flavoured chocolate icing or whipped cream.

Wildlife on the doorstep

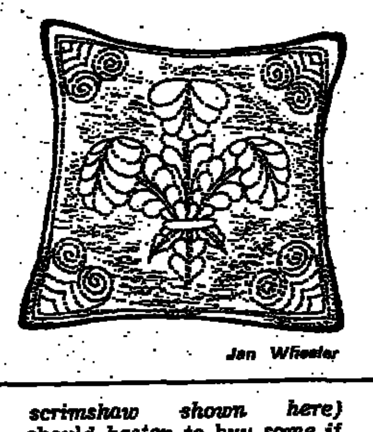
A perfect book to keep the children (and adults for that matter) amused, interested and concerned this Easter—The Back Garden Wildlife Sanctuary Book by Ron Wilson*. Not only does it conjure up a picture of a fast disappearing network of interdependent plants and natural life, but Ron Wilson offers concrete suggestions to help arrest the changes.

He obviously cares for every part of our habitat, however small and apparently insignificant, and the illustrations by Anne Röper and John Heritage amply support his enthusiasm. What he hopes to do with this book is not only to teach us more about the myriad things that make up the living earth around us but to encourage us to make our own little patch, whether town patio, suburban lawn or country garden, a haven for some of our threatened wildlife species. He deals with everything you might find in your garden from the tiniest insect to the largest tree, from nesting sites for birds to ponds for fish and plants. A book full of charm and enthusiasm.

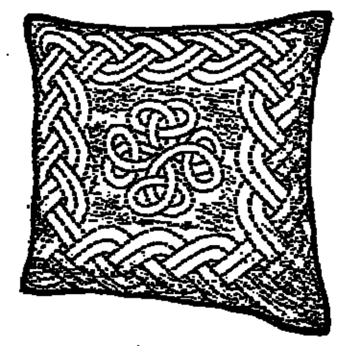
* *Published by Penguin, £2.95.*

Sew to please

There seems no end to the ingenuity of publicity seekers attempts to link their products with the Royal wedding. Most of the end results are singularly unattractive but though the link between traditional quilting kits and the Royal event seems extremely tenuous, the cushions are so attractive that it matters not. The Quiltery of Tacolneston in Norfolk is selling kits which make up to form 12 in square cushion covers, featuring patterns of the True Lover's knot and the Prince of Wales Feathers. Other designs are also offered, all based on traditional quilting patterns found in the mining villages of Durham and South Wales where miner's widows used to eke out a living as quilters. The cushions come in beige, blue or green, and need to be sewn by hand on a frame. Instructions, wadding, interlining, bias binding and piping cord are included in the kit. £3.95 per kit (including p+p) from The Quiltery, Freepost, Tacolneston, Norwich.

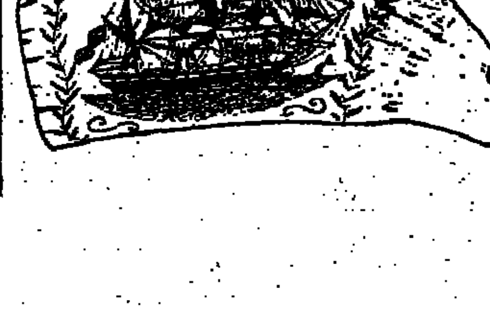


Jan Wheeler



Sea treasures

Last week's replicas (the decoy ducks) were so astonishingly popular with readers (a large consignment was sold out by mid-day on Monday) that I recommend that anybody interested in this week's replicas (the scrimshaw shown here) should hasten to buy some if it appeals to them. The small Roupell Street Gallery, a stone's throw from Waterloo station at No. 62, has a collection of scrimshaw items that look so genuine only the X-ray techniques used by top auction houses can tell the real from the reproduction. Scrimshaw, as most people know, is the sailors' art of engraving on whales' teeth, ivory and sea shells and it has become a very expensive collectors' item in recent years. The Gallery's replicas are in the form of whales' teeth (as pictured here) about six inches high, and though they vary slightly, all have a nautical connection and all are reproduced from original scrimshaw carvings. They cost £25 each (plus £1.45 p+p). (There are also framed miniatures at the same price but costing an extra 85p for posting.)



Jan Wheeler

ARTS

Drama for trannies

BY B. A. YOUNG

Apart from any other consideration the BBC has got a tremendous bargain in the radio version of *Star Wars*. It is being broadcast twice, 13 half-hour instalments each time, once in mono and once in stereo, and it only cost them $30,000. But the real innovation is the introduction of drama on Radio 1, and not only drama, but drama with a continuing story-line that has to be followed from instalment to instalment if it is to make any sense.

The question arises at once whether listeners to Radio 1 care very much whether what they hear makes sense or not. I'm not denigrating them, but from my observation listening habits among the young don't involve a great deal of attention. I don't hear discussions among my younger friends of the relative intellectual accomplishments of Mike Read, Simon Bates, Andy Peebles, Paul Burnett, Steve Wright and Peter Powell, and when I read "Producer, John Sparrow" in my Radio Times I don't seriously expect to encounter the work of the former Warden of All Souls. Listeners to this channel are usually happy if they get enough exposure of the latest work of their favourite pop artists; and yes, I am well aware that in the evening there is more variety in the programmes, but nothing that calls for much exercise of the imagination.

You could argue that *Star Wars* isn't going to call for much exercise of the imagination either, and the truth is that it need not, to judge from what I have heard of it. But, like the film, it is much better than you might expect it to be.

The film was nothing like the necessary 13½ hours long, so a new script has been written by Brian Daley under the editorship of Lindsay Smith, with new material added to the familiar story. Fans will like to know that there is an episode recalling how Artoo Detoo and See Threepio first met; there is a story about the capture of Princess Leia Organa by Darth Vader. (How hard it is to get the girls convincingly into this kind of tale.) The need to introduce more narrative interest into the story is very important. The film relied strongly on visual impact. There is no visual impact at all on radio; this is in fact Rule One for anyone doing creative work in the medium.

In the radio version, the visual element has to be replaced by means involving sound alone. Of course this can be done in the dialogue: I was told when I first started writing radio plays that if I wanted someone to walk upside down across the ceiling I only had to write the line "Look, he's walking upside down across the ceiling!" But you don't achieve the kind of excitement that way that you had in the *Star Wars* film, and the element that has proved so effective in the transcription is the use of the film's vivid sound-track.

As the director, John Madden, pointed out, the sound actually plays a part in the visual effect in the film. You see two characters fencing with laser beams, and they might as well be bashing one another with poles. Add the sinister electric growl that accompanies the scene, and they are armed with beams of lethal power that could burn them to a frazzle.

John Madden directed all the dialogue first, absolutely plain, with no sound at all. Two of the original stars are there, Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker and Anthony Daniels as See Threepio. "This was a labour of love," Mark Hamill said. "It was an opportunity for me to work in a medium that has been denied me simply because of my age. I really wanted to be involved in the radio series from the minute I heard about it."

This phase was done in 13 days, and Tom Voegeli then took over to feed in appropriate sound behind the dialogue. The effect, as listeners will hear over the next two weeks, is splendid, bright and colourful, and truly evocative of the pictures we remember from the film. On the other hand, I don't believe that a previous familiarity with the the film is vital. The production is simply a first-rate piece of radio drama, which is an art of its own, as important in its way as drama for the stage, for the screen or for the television set.

But the question still lingers in my mind, whether Radio 1 listeners will take to this novel experience. In my mind's eye, I see young people with roller-skates at one end and head-phones at the other, a transistor set in the right hand and a cigarette in the left—do they want to hear anything but the steady rhythmic impulse of pop? In America, where transmission of *Star Wars* is already in progress, it goes out on the National Public Radio channel and this is where you look for such serious programmes as American radio offers. Between the NPR and Radio 1 there is a great gulf fixed.

Fifties back in favour

BY NIGEL ANDREWS

The Idolmaker (A) London Pavilion

The Incredible Shrinking Woman (A) Plaza 2

Union City (A) Screen on the Green, Cinecenta, Odeon Kensington

The moral of *The Idolmaker* is that you don't have to be beautiful to be a pop star. Ugly duckling pop manager Vincent Vacarri (Ray Sharkey), 27, powers his picked-off-the-street youngsters to yodelling fame with the fuel of his own career frustrations. He doesn't have the good looks he supposes to be a pop star's *sine qua non*, though he does have the singing and composing talent. But by the end of the film, after becoming the Brian Epstein of New York's Little Italy by promoting a brace of smash-hit songsters named Tommy Dee and Caesare, Signor Vacarri has exorcised his own lack of self-confidence, brushed up his vocal chords and hopped on the first rung of the singing success ladder himself.

The moral of *The Idolmaker* as a star vehicle for Ray Sharkey, an actor with receding hair and a face like a swordfish (he stole most of the acting thunder in *Willie and Phil*), is that you don't have to be beautiful to be a film star either. Sharkey muscles with terrific vitality through this film, a husky-voiced hustler with a darting wit and a foot-fidgeting mercuriality. The story is at heart a showbiz *Cinderella* in mirror-writing: with the Ugly Sisters transposed into the Beautiful Pop Protegés and Cinders into the Ugly Promoter left at home to sweep the turntable until Lo! the Fairy Godmother of self-knowledge entereth, pumping up the pumpkin of self-belief, and Sharkey-Svengali becomes his own Trilby, the Pop-world Pygmalion his own Galatea.

But if the film's direction and denouement are both predictable, the build-up is so full of razzmatazz energy that it keeps surprising: especially in the "making of" idol number two, Caesare (Peter Gallagher), cranked up from a dishy but dim-witted dish-washer in a pizza restaurant to a macho meteor smouldering out from posters with sullen eyes and Brylcreemed hair (the time is 1959) and eliciting mass teenage ululation on stage. There is one bravura shot which sums up the movie's whole tone of heroic corn in one camera-movement: a slow track-out from the stage on which Caesare is gyrating like an Italian Presley, back through the mesmerised audience to Sharkey himself standing at the back, his languidly self-congratulatory profile wreathed in seraphic cigarette-smoke.

But the alchemical miracle of corn turned to gold would not be worked without Sharkey's own performance. He is that rarest of actor alloys: a strutter and a monomaniac who yet retains a vestigial vulnerability. His nose marches before him, sniffing out the main chance, and he is nimble and combative on his toes like Cagney. But he can also be a wonderful shrugger and loser: rasping out *bon mots* of sardonic resignation through a voice permanently busked with the Great Shouting Match of life. Even at the end when he picks up a microphone in a night-club talent hour and shows that he too can hold an audience spellbound, Sharkey's rapt, piano crooning, tinged with hoarseness, makes this cornball "moment of truth" seem both true and moving.

Debbie Harry in 'Union City'

★

Of three films this week variously matriculating from the 1950s, *The Idolmaker* is the only one that doesn't seem time-trapped in that decade. *The Incredible Shrinking Woman* stars Lily Tomlin in a funny ha-ha distaff remake of *The Incredible Shrinking Man* (1957). For all the new film's preludial paraphernalia of consumer-age topicality Miss T is a housewife living in daintiest suburbia and deluged with the "latest brand" of everything—once it strips down to its storyline basics, it's a tired old romp through the stations of shrinkage that worked much better when played straight and primitive and paranoid in the 1950s.

Here, middle-American life is envisaged by director Joel Shumacher and writer Jane Wagner as a pastel-coloured kindergarten, where cosseted consumers live amid puce and orange walls and are spoonfed the latest whims of the supermarkets. Miss Tomlin's advertising husband Charles Grodin brings home one night a try-out sample of new perfume and spills it over his wife. Calamity! 'Ere long our fuzzy-eyed, spaniel-faced heroine is losing two inches a day, slipping rings and bracelets into the soup, and is finally driven to take Lilliputian refuge in a doll's house.

Once the film has larkily nailed its dangers-of-consumerism message to the mast of a familar story, there is nowhere for it to go but, like its heroine, glug! glug! ever downward in diminishing spirals. A late-born conspiracy subplot—scientists capture 6-inch Miss T with a view to manufacturing a "shrink" drug for military ends—adds a suffering half-hour to what might have passed muster as a 60-minute comedy telemovie. But elsewhere there is only the brave and overworked Miss Tomlin, here called on to play two spirited cameos—a snooty adenoidal neighbour and a snorting Laugh-In-style telephonist—as well as a main role which she endows with a flustery comic baroque worthy of a better movie.

★

One reason the cinema keeps harking back to the 1950s is that it was a decade in which colour photography was shameless—a riot of pillar-box reds, lemon yellows, tropic blues—and movie emotions were often garish to match. Two decades of more sophisticated and "artistic" colour photography since the '50s have now worked their penitential purpose and modern movie-makers, conscience salved and curiosity slaked by learning that they *can* control colour, are once more showing a desire to riot in primary hues, and with primary hues primary emotions.

Mark Reichert's *Union City* is a beguiling, joky little squib of short-story melodrama puffed out to feature-length dimensions and high-colour grandiloquence. The "plot" as such runs out of steam after 40 minutes—murder, jealousy, paranoia in a seedy Manhattan tenement—but never mind that. The film's claim to distinction is in its stunning design and colour. Around his central couple, a tetchy, nervous businessman and the bleach-blonde sex-bomb of a wife (played by Debbie Harry) he drives increasingly distraught with jealousies and suspicions, Reichert weaves a Pop-art tapestry of marvellous '50s dementia. Washed in rainbow colours, the hard angles, long shadows and shiny textures suggest a series of Edward Hopper paintings made over by Vincente Minnelli or Douglas Sirk.

No real people ever lived like this or looked like this—sculpted into lurid icons by fierce side-lighting, at sea amid mauves and golds, caged by bars of shadow—but the cinema doesn't trade only in window-on-the-world realism, it can be as expressive in its undulations of form as an Expressionist painting. The artist's eye is there in *Union City*. All Reicherdt needs next time is a feature-worthy screenplay and the courage to push out from his pasticheur's haven in the 1950s to find his own Ultima Thule of visual originality.

Jean-Philippe Collard

BY DAVID MURRAY

Known in Britain chiefly for his recordings, Jean-Philippe Collard showed more temperament in his short recital on Thursday. He is a well-schooled and stylish pianist—less individual than Pascal Rogé, less forcefully brilliant than Michel Béroff, but impressive for his penetrating sympathy with his preferred composers and for the guarded intensity of his manner. He illuminates lines and details rather than structure, captures moods and lets the order of events speak for itself. A pianist of a distinguished French stamp, in short, sensibility controlled by cultivated taste.

the Schumann Piano Series, and he offered the *Fantasiestücke* of op. 111 — curiously diffuse in effect, like much late Schumann, though formally simple enough. He found some febrile life in the pieces, but no special cogency. Ravel's *Gaspard de la nuit* was more fruitful territory. Collard caught the frail, haunting quality of the melody of "Ondine" excellently, with its dangerously Lisztian accompaniment kept well down (judiciously redistributed between the hands). "Le Gibet" set up nervous echoes, dramatised by some uncanonical liberties of tempo; "Scarbo" lacked nothing in fleetness, but something in force and malicious surprise—Ravel's Gothic horror-piece calls for glaring extremes.

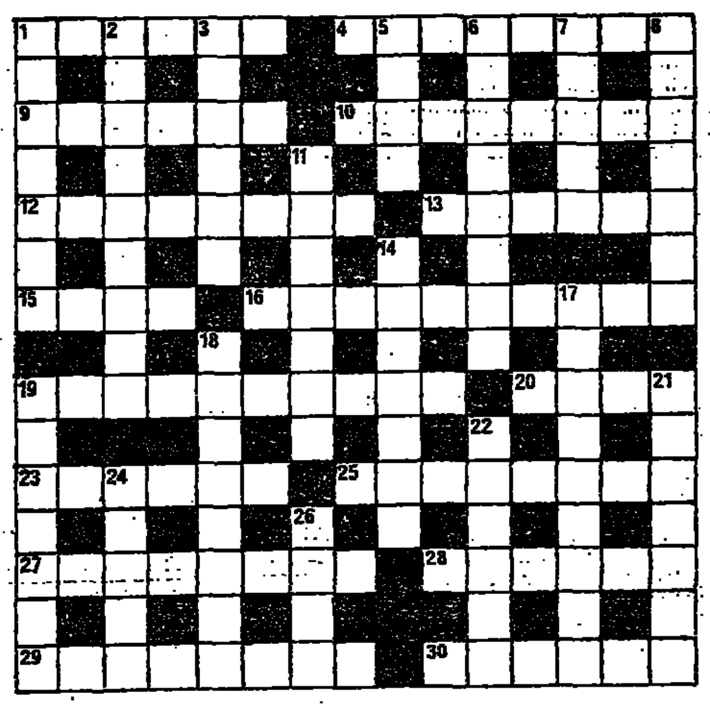
Still, Collard brings a whole piano-tradition to bear on Ravel, and the sense of studied re-creation was potent. Rakhmaninov filled the rest of his programme: two of the op. 33 *Etudes - Tableaux*, and the Second Sonata. Rightly, Collard treated each work quite personally—not as an occasion for display, but as a lyric to be rendered aloud. Each was given Impressionist colours and poignant inflections: though I fancy that Rakhamaninov expected more to be made of the sheer torrents of notes in the Sonata. Collard's fluent elegance set its sentiments, not its seems to use an amalgam of the sems to use an amalgam of the original and the revised versions of the Sonata, by the way, rejecting some less happy afterthoughts in favour of Rakhmaninov's first intentions.

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 4,548

A prize of £10 will be given to each of the senders of the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions must be received by next Thursday, marked Crossword in the top left-hand corner of the envelope, and addressed to the Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, London, EC4P 4BY. Winners and solution will be given next Saturday.

Name ....

Address ....



ACROSS

1 Current warrioress? No! (6)
4 Spots—start of fever with rash, almost (8)
9 *Main security fastener?* (6)
10 Lots knocked down here in Rome, also knocked about (4-4)
12 Sauce or mustard-plaster (8)
13 *Topless stockings in* basket-works (6)
15 Combed wool of animal on its back (4)
16 Troops hide out in the *ministry* (10)
19 Birth and death of a back-biter, perhaps (10)
20 Familiar address of Othello to his wife—in verse (4)
23 Mock what Camptown jockey went along for? (6)
25 Facially fortunate dairy-worker? (8)
27 England's openers failed *badly in these shots* (8)
28 Living in Hitchin still—drop in (6)
29 Headline of coloured paper (not a broadsheet) (8)
30 After extremes of hilarity, bride almost cross (6)

DOWN

1 Light rubber producing a powerful spirit? (7)
2 St. Michael converted this old scientist (9)
3 Musical director of "Wind in the Reeds"? (6)
5 Sea-noise made by right propeller (4)
6 Put out circular-letters in secret—protect deal with it (8)
7 Free card-game over home counties (5)
8 Someday, perhaps, one will win at Cruft's (7)
11 Thankless type, could be made of granite (7)
14 Pledge is back in storehouse (7)
17 Mr. Chips was such a good painter! (3, 6)
18 Nasty brown jumper found on the beach (4-4)
19 Incessant ambition reduced (7)
21 Ready to ride off but encumbered (7)
22 Like Mr. Laurel, find a pub in heavenly surroundings (6)
24 Look up—up and down (5)
26 Useless first person led astray (4)

Solution to Puzzle No. 4,547

Solution and Winners of Puzzle No. 4,543

Sir Alan Marre, 44, The Vale, London, NW11.

Mr. B. S. Crowther, 154, Strines Road, Strines, Stockport, Cheshire.

Mr. A. G. D. Simpson, 80, St. Andrew's Road, Boreham, Chelmsford, Essex.

TV/Radio

† Indicates programme in black and white

BBC 1

9.10 am Swim. 9.35 Lassie. 9.55 Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch. 10.20 The Bugs Bunny Easter Special. 11.05 "Poco" starring Chill Wills. 12.27 pm Weather.
12.30 Grandstand: Football Focus (12.35); Embassy World Professional Snooker Championship (1.05, 3.50); Racing from Haydock (1.50, 2.20, 2.50); Diving (2.05, 3.35, 4.25) Martini European Cup—The Men's Spring-board and Women's High-board Finals; Show Jumping (3.05, 4.05) The Kerrygold International; 3.45 Half-time Football Scores; 4.40 Final Score.
5.10 News.
5.20 Sport/Regional News.
5.25 Disney Time.
6.15 You Must Be Joking!
6.50 "Rooster Cogburn" starring John Wayne and Katharine Hepburn.
8.35 The Val Doonican Music Show.
9.20 Dallas.
10.10 News and Sport.
10.25 *Saturday Night at the Mill.*
11.15 The Saturday Film: "Steptoe and Son" starring Wilfrid Brambell and Harry H. Corbett.

All Regions as BBC1 except as follows:

Cymru/Wales — 5.20-5.25 pm Sports News Wales. 12.50-1.05 am The Hope of Glory.

Scotland—4.55-5.10 pm Scoreboard (1). 5.20-5.25 Scoreboard (2). 12.50 am News and Weather for Scotland.

Northern Ireland — 5.05-5.10 pm Rugby Union (opt-out from "Grandstand"): The AIB Challenge Cup. 5.00-5.10 Scoreboard. 5.20-5.25 Northern Ireland News. 12.50 am News and Weather for Northern Ireland.

England—5.20-5.25 pm (South-West only) Saturday Spotlight.

BBC 2

11.00 am Embassy World Professional Snooker Championship.
1.05 pm † "Sylvia Scarlett" starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant.
2.30 Charlie Brown.
2.35 † "A Star is Born" starring Judy Garland and James Mason.
5.25 Snooker semi-finals.
6.50 The Easter Experience?
7.10 News and Sport.
7.30 Snooker: Highlights.
8.35 King.
10.10 Arena.
11.05 News On 2.
11.15 Snooker: Highlights.
12.40 am The Old Grey Whistle Test.

LONDON

8.45 am Sesame Street. 9.45 Joe 90. 10.10 Survival. 10.35 Anna and the King. 11.00 Thunderbirds. 12.00 Mork and Mindy.
12.30 pm World of Sport: 12.35 On the Ball; 1.00 International Sports Special—(Part 1) Boxing; 1.15 News; 1.20 The ITV Seven from Kempton and Newcastle; 3.10 International Sports Special (Part 2) Speedway—The Daily Express Spring Classic; 3.50 Half-time Soccer Round-up; 4.00 Wrestling; 4.50 Results Service.
5.05 Metal Mickey.
5.35 News.
5.40 Only When I Laugh.
6.10 The Children's Royal Variety Performance.
8.00 "Doctor in Distress" starring Dirk Bogarde and Samantha Eggar.
9.45 News.
10.00 The Big Match.
11.00 The Monte Carlo Show with Petrick Wayne and Rod McKuen.
12.00 Police Surgeon.
12.30 am No Vain Sacrifice.

All IBA Regions as London except at the following times:

ANGLIA

ATV

BORDER

CHANNEL

GRAMPIAN

GRANADA

... West. 11.05 Lou Grant. 12.00 Casino de Paris.

HTV

9.10 am Numbers at Work. 9.35 No Need to Shout. 10.00 Beanstalk Bunny. 10.10 "The Robe," starring Richard Burton, Jean Simmons and Victor Mature. 12.28 pm HTV News. 5.39 HTV News. 10.58 HTV Sports Headlines.

SCOTTISH

SOUTHERN

TYNE TEES

ULSTER

WESTWARD

YORKSHIRE

RADIO 1

RADIO 2

RADIO 3

RADIO 4

6.50 Yours Faithfully. 6.55 Weather; Programme News. 7.00 News. 7.10 On Your Farm. 7.40 Today's Papers. 7.45 Yours Faithfully. 7.50 It's A Bargain. 7.55 Weather; Programme News. 8.00 News. 8.10 Sport On 4. 8.45 Today's Papers. 8.50 Breakaway, *including* 9.00 News; Continental Travel Information. 9.50 News Stand. 10.05 ...

BBC Radio London

London Broadcasting

Capital Radio

... Countdown with Peter Young. 12.00 Dave Cash's Cash Country. 2.00 pm Duncan Johnson's Afternoon Delight. 5.00 Mike Allen's Soul Spectrum. 8.00 RDU2—Schools Race for Planet Earth with Richard Digance. 9.00 Capital Recap with David Briggs. 10.00 Roots Rockers with David Rodigan. 12.00 Midnight Special including Capital Nightcap at 12.03 am. 5.00 The Classical Collection.

TV Ratings w/e April 12

Owing to the Easter weekend, figures for the UK Top Twenty (prepared by Audits of Great Britain for the Joint Industry Committee for Television Advertising Research, JICTAR) are not available this week.

U.S. TOP TEN (Nielson ratings)

1	Dallas (drama) (CBS)	30.0
2	*Masada* (Part 4) (drama) (ABC)	27.0
3	Private Benjamin (comedy) (CBS)	25.8
4	Masada (Part 3) (drama) (ABC)	25.7
5	Masada (Part 2) (drama) (ABC)	25.6
6	60 Minutes (news) (CBS)	25.5
7	Dukes of Hazzard (drama) (CBS)	24.2
8	The Two of Us (comedy) (CBS)	22.7
9	The Loveboat (comedy) (ABC)	22.3
10	MASH (comedy) (CBS)	21.9

CHESS SOLUTIONS

Solution to Position No. 367

13 . . . R-B1! 14 QN-Q2? NxQP! and White resigned because of 15 NxN, QxN ch, 16 KxQ, B-B4 mate.

Solution to Problem No. 367

1 Q-R8 (waiting). If 1 . . . P-Q6; 2 Q-KR8, or if P-N7; 2 Q-R3, or if B moves; 2 Q-R5, or if K-Q6: 2 Q-KB3. Not 1 Q-KN2? B-B8.

هكذا من الأصل

COLLECTING

Knobs, knockers and architects

BY JUNE FIELD

THE IDEA of furnishing a house in keeping with its architecture goes back to ancient Greece, but it particularly appealed to High Victorian architects and the key figures of the first wave of the Arts and Crafts Movement. C. F. A. Voysey (1857-1941) in *The Arts Connected With Building*, 1909, argued for the total involvement of the architect in the design of an interior.

"The effect of real richness is only obtainable by having precious materials, elaboration concentrated and *harmoniously* arranged. . . . Your attention to this principle is going to affect your design of every detail including spoons and forks."

And William Morris, in his famous essay *The Lesser Arts of Life*, took an even broader view, declaring "that among ourselves, the men of modern Europe, the existence of other arts is bound up with that of architecture." In its widest sense he considered it to mean "the art of creating a building with all the appliances fit for carrying on a dignified and happy life."

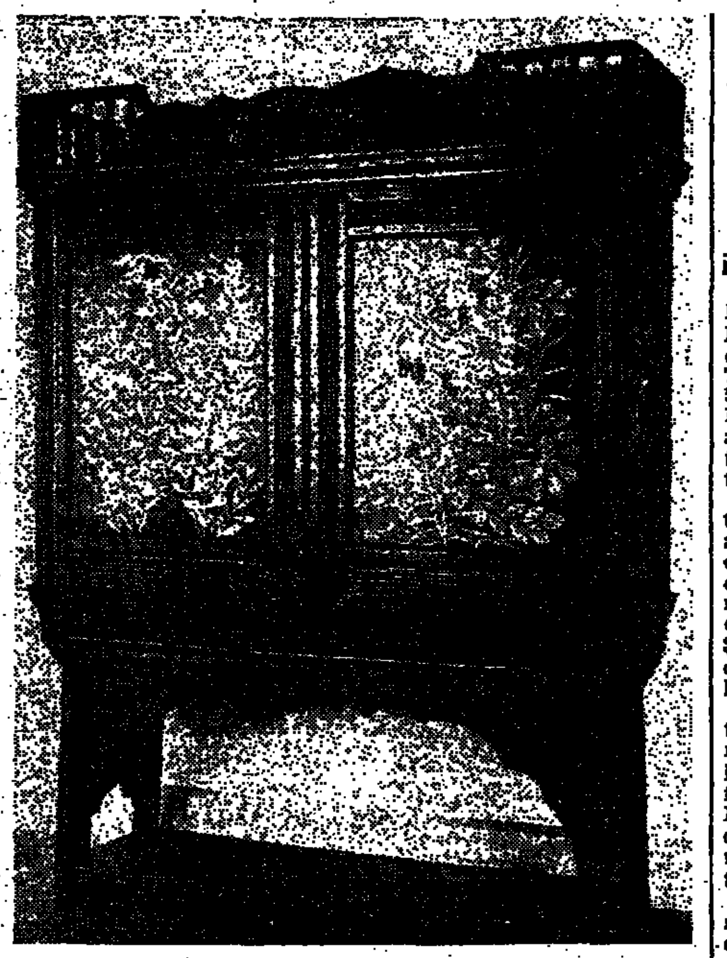
Identification of the objects of the "artistic" home of the period roughly 1850-1914, is becoming progressively stronger, as a remarkable exhibition *Architect-Designers: Pugin to Mackintosh*, organised by the Fine Art Society and Haslam and Whiteway, open May 5-29, will reveal.

Furniture, carpets, ceilings, door knobs and fire grates, all linking the furnishings of the room into one ensemble, become "fatally mutilated aesthetically if objects are removed," observes Clive Wainwright, researcher at the Victoria and Albert Museum in the introduction to the invaluable catalogue compiled by Charlotte Gere and Fine Art Society director Peyton Skipworth. (The catalogue will be available for £5.50 from Mr. Skipworth, Fine Art Society, 14 New Bond Street, London, W1.)

Mr. Wainwright also makes the point, of course, that it is only necessary to mention a few names, Webb, Lethaby, Ashbee, Gimson and Voysey, "architects to a man, to realise that virtually no objects *made* by them exist, but those designed by them are legion."

There will be 60 or so documented pieces most of which will be for sale. They range from an earthenware bread plate at £300, designed by A. W. N. Pugin, creator, with Sir Charles Barry, from 1835 onwards, of the Houses of Parliament (Pugin was married three times, and died at the age of 40, overworked, and subject to bouts of madness), to an elaborately decorated grand piano of 1871 by Charles Bevan, *for £14,000. One of the more* novel items must be the elaborately inlaid chair designed by Sir Alma Tadema, the artist, for the mansion of Henry Marquand's New York home, c 1884. It is a fantasy chair, with a weirdly high back decorated with scrolls of ivory, ebony and mother-of-pearl.

Only 12 years ago Elizabeth Aslin, in the *Aesthetic Movement, Prelude to Art Nouveau* (Elek Books), reported that "none of Shaw's art furniture is known to have survived." Now an imposing *red-stained* pine cabinet, with decorated panels, almost identical to one illustrated as being by Shaw in The Furniture Exhibition 1882, has surfaced, and will be in the exhibition (and another cabinet in green, is known to be in Sussex).



Norman Shaw red-stained pine cabinet is one of the important *discoveries of Arts and Crafts pieces in the exhibition Architect-Designers: Pugin to Mackintosh at the Fine Art Society, May 5-29*

Understandably, Mr. Skipworth is reluctant to quote a value. He prefers people to study the quality of the exhibits rather than concentrate on the price tags. He also insists that for anyone with an intuitive eye, *there are still exciting discoveries* to be made. "You don't necessarily need to be an expert, but you need to be able to spot the constructional qualities inherent in architect's furniture."

From Morris are the pair of *painted glass panels* made for The Grange, North End, Fulham, in London, and removed to North End House, Rottingdean, Sussex. They were bought about six months back from writer Enid Bagnold (Lady Jones), who died just over a fortnight ago. *Provenance* is from Sir Edward Burne-Jones, the artist who originally lived in the two houses, and who is buried at Rottingdean. North End House was bought in 1924 by Sir Roderick Jones, chairman of Reuters, and Enid Bagnold did much of her writing there.

One of Morris' hand-woven wool "Hammersmith" rugs (so called to distinguish them from his various machine-woven carpets), which combined a deep pile with a coarse pitch generally 16 knots to the square *inch, will come from Birmingham* City Art Gallery's current display, *Bright Blossoms and Strange Birds*, which finishes on May 4. The organisers, Oliver Fairclough and Emmeline Leary, have produced an elegant and informative accompanying book, *Textiles by William Morris And Morris and Co. 1861-1940*, (Thames and Hudson, £5.50, plus £1.20 postage from the authors at the City Art Gallery, Congreve Street, Birmingham).

Arthur Sanderson and Sons began hand-printing wallpapers for Morris and Co. in the 1930s, and when the firm went into liquidation in 1940, Sanderson bought the Morris wood-blocks. They can be seen at the newly opened William Morris Gallery at Sanderson, Berners Street, London, W1. (For an information kit, *send a 24p stamped self* addressed label to Val Arnison, head of their public relations department.)

For complementary study there are three excellent books recently published under the imprint of the Architectural Press. *Particularly pertinent* is Marion Page's *Furniture Designed by Architects*, £12.50, which also features the work of American and European architects of the period as well as some modern products; as does Lionel Lambourne's *Utopian Craftsmen—The Arts and Crafts Movement from the Cotswolds to Chicago*, and Peter Davey's *Arts and Crafts Architecture: The Search for Earthly Paradise*. both £12.95.

And for those who did not get to Cheltenham Art Gallery recently to see the exhibition *C. R. Ashbee at the Guild of Handicraft*, that too will be at the Fine Art Society from May 5.

A case of inconspicuous consumption

MOTORING

STEUART MARSHALL

EARLIER THIS month, my Peugeot 305GLD estate had its engine oil and filter changed. The bill was £16.96—£6 for 5 litres of oil, £3.15 for the filter, 10p for a gasket, £5.50 for labour and £2.21 VAT. I had booked the service that morning and it took the garage 25 minutes.

Last week, in a BP garage on the outskirts of Toronto, I saw an identical service performed on a big American V8. The operation took 10 minutes; the motorist had literally driven in off the street; and it cost him $C9.98 (£3.90) including 5 litres of BP Super Visco 10W-40 lubricant and the filter.

While I was still getting over the shock, the motorist went round to the pump island, filled his tank with unleaded premium fuel at 31 cents a litre (54p an *Imperial gallon) and bought a* car wash ticket for 48p. He nosed his car into the wash tunnel.

A conveyor pulled it through slowly while it was drenched in detergent, brushed from every direction, waxed and blown dry, *emerging really clean and* shining in three minutes. (The wax is perfumed to the buyer's choice—pine, I was told, was the most popular.)

All of this led me to draw two conclusions. First, that I really must carry out my own 3,000 mile services in future. And secondly, that the Canadian motorist must be the most pampered in the Western world.

Even by North American standards the Canadian car owner is *getting an exceptionally good* deal from companies like BP that are fighting for his custom. If the man I had watched had wanted a full 33 point service and inspection, with lubricant and filter changes, chassis greasing and a thorough check of everything from the tyres to fluid levels, it would have cost the equivalent of £8.54, inclusive of products and labour. All done while he waited, of course.

Only if the check-up had shown that he needed, shall we say, a new set of wiper blades would there have been anything extra to pay. Even then he would have got away with it lightly. For example, a three-year guaranteed battery for a typical U.S. car is less than £24; and £36 buys a super quality battery with a warranty that it will last the rest of the life of *the car and which is transferable* to a subsequent owner.

And there is no nonsense about charging motorists extra if they pay by credit card. "You've got to be kidding" was the reaction of one BP manager when I told him that a service *charge equal to 50 cents was* now common (and some might say sharp) practice at UK filling stations.

At 54p an Imperial gallon, Canadian petrol is so cheap that U.S. drivers are pouring over the border to brim their tanks *and save about US$9 per gas-guzzler's tank full.* The influx has reached such proportions that the local tabloid daily headlined a story: "Gas hungry Yanks fuel town's ire." The citizens of Fort Erie were, it was said, being kept awake at night and suffering traffic jabs by day and the city council was preparing a by-law forcing gas stations to close between 1 am and 7 am.

The car totally dominates the transport scene in Canada. Motorists each drive about *12,700 miles a year, mainly in* medium or large-sized American designed though locally manufactured cars. Foreign—and principally Japanese—cars now hold 27 per cent of the market.

Although, for some years, petrol has been sold by litres, and highway distances measured in kilometres, Canadian motorists still tend to think Imperial. They are allowed to drive a little faster than the Americans—62 mph (100 km/h) compared with the U.S. limit of 55 mph. *Canadian exhaust emission rules are* easier, too, though they are tougher than in Europe.

Just how heavy a burden the U.S. emission control standards put on a driver's pocket was revealed by a recent series of tests, carried out on Renault 5s with controls to U.S., Canadian and European standards.

The consumption figures were 25 mpg (U.S.), 33 mpg (Canada) and 43 mpg (European), which goes to show that what you gain on the environmentalist's roundabout, you lose on the *fuel conservation swings.*

In Canada, BP is into the advanced driving business. It runs a defensive driving and skid control school at which a one-and-a-half-day course costs £36.50 and includes highway and skid pan experience. Defensive driving (in essence you assume every *other* vehicle is in the charge of a homicidal maniac) has shown remarkable reductions in accident rates and all BP mobile staff are required to undergo training.

I tried a Chrysler six-cylinder on the slippery surface. It was surprisingly controllable in a simulated 70 mph lane change—simulated by the instructor locking the rear wheels at 35 mph on a surface with the grip of black ice. But if I reacted too slowly it turned completely round twice over.

Would any petrol company care to *follow BP's good example in Britain?* An hour or two's experience on a skid pan is worth any amount of exhortations. And it might be a better business builder than a penny or two off a gallon, or vouchers for hideous glasses.

BRIDGE

E. P. C. COTTER

TODAY'S two bands come from last year's Lederer Memorial Trophy, and contain several points of interest, though they are primarily examples of good declarer play. Here is the first:

N
♠ J 5
♡ J 4
◇ A K 5 4
♣ A 9 8 7 5

W
♠ 8 3
♡ A 10 7
◇ Q J 8 2
♣ Q J 10 3

E
♠ A 9 4 2
♡ 9 8 6 5 3
◇ 3
♣ K 6 2

S
♠ K Q 10 7 6
♡ K Q 2
◇ 10 9 7 6
♣ 4

With East-West vulnerable, South dealt and bid a dubious one spade — on his cards I would prefer to pass. North replied with two clubs, South rebid two diamonds, and North now said two hearts—fourth suit forcing — asking partner to describe his hand further. South could make no bid other than two spades, North raised the diamonds to three. South *said three no trumps, and* North's bid of four spades concluded the auction.

Instead of making the obvious lead of the club Queen, which would have attacked the declarer's precarious trump position, West led the three of *spades. There is nothing to suggest* that a trump lead is desirable—it was an extremely poor decision. Dummy and East played low, and the declarer won with his six. He followed with a heart to dummy's Knave, and played the Knave of spades, which was allowed to hold. Then the last heart was led from the table to the King and Ace. West returned the heart ten to the declarer's Queen, and the spade King lost to the Ace. East returned the nine of hearts, which was ruffed in hand, and the Queen of spades drew East's remaining trump.

In the five-card ending West held his four diamonds intact and the singleton Queen of clubs. The declarer now showed good card reading by crossing to the diamond King, cashing the club Ace to strip West of his card of exit, and returning the diamond four to the nine and Knave. West was endplayed, *and had to concede the last two* diamonds.

The second hand was dealt by East with East-West vulnerable:

N
♠ 7 6
♡ K 4 2
◇ A K 9
♣ Q 8 5 4 3

W
♠ K J 5 3
♡ Q 8 7 6 3
◇ 10 8 3 2
♣ —

E
♠ Q 10 4
♡ 5
◇ J 7 5
♣ K J 10 7 6 2

S
♠ A 9 8 2
♡ A J 10 9
◇ Q 6 4
♣ A 9

After a pass from East South opened the bidding with one heart. It is accepted practice, when holding two four-card major suits, to bid hearts first. This allows partner to support hearts, or to bid spades if he has four of them. If spades are bid first, the partner will not be able to bid hearts on a four card suit. and the right trump suit is lost for ever. North replied with two clubs, South rebid two no trumps, North said *three hearts* — clearly a three-card support — to suggest the major suit contract, but South settled for three no trumps.

West led the diamond two, the declarer won with dummy's Ace, and immediately led the two of hearts, finessing the *Knave in hand. Winning with* the Queen. West continued diamonds, and the declarer could not make more than eight tricks.

In the other room South in the same contract received the same lead, which he won in *hand with his Queen. Instead of* guessing which way to finesse hearts, the declarer showed far better technique. At the second trick, for purposes of discovery, he led the club nine. When West showed out, the odds were heavily in favour of West's holding the heart Queen. So when he regained the lead with the Ace of spades, he ran the heart Knave and the contract was made.

GOLF

ROGER PAUL

SIX YEARS AGO, in the final round of the 1975 U.S. Masters, on the 16th green, Jack Nicklaus holed a monstrous, 40 foot putt. In an untypical moment he leapt high in the air, putter aloft, perhaps realising that it was the stroke which was to win him what has been labelled one of the *greatest Championships ever* played.

Standing watching, on the 16th tee, were Tom Weiskopf and Johnny Miller, and the former, who at that stage led by one, promptly mis-shot a 4-iron tee shot, three putted from *100 ft*, and finished second for the fourth time in the Masters.

This year Nicklaus did it again. On the same hole he holed from 35 ft, again taking himself to within one shot of the leader, this time Tom Watson. On this occasion his reaction was strangely muted. There was evident pleasure, joy even. But no elation, no leaping into the skies. For behind him *this time was Watson*, already winner of three Open Championships and a Masters.

Watson is made of very stern stuff indeed. In 1977, in both the Masters and in our Open at Turnberry, he trod in the Golden bear-prints and obliterated them. Ever since the moment at Turnberry when Nicklaus threw an arm around Watson and said "You have seen my best, and beaten it." the respect between the two men has been mutual, and this *year, at the 18th*, Nicklaus knew that what he had done was too little, too late.

Watson, of course, won his second *Masters and must now be* edging towards his own definition of a great golfer. His total of five championships is still relatively small, but Watson once said that if he could maintain a high standard of performance over an unspecified, but considerable period of time, then he would concede that he might deserve to be ranked alongside the likes of Nicklaus.

Watson won his first major at Carnoustie in 1975, has won since at Turnberry and Muirfield last year; he has been the U.S. Tour's Player of the Year for the last four years and has set undreamed-of money-winning records. He might never claim greatness, but he might soon be forced to accept it.

One way of getting there, indisputably, would be to do something Nicklaus has never achieved, and about the only *thing which comes into that* category is the Grand Slam. Watson admits that the winning of the Masters, the U.S. and British Opens and the U.S. PGA all in one year, can be done. "It's possible," he said "unless we homo sapiens blow ourselves up. But its probability is about one billion to one." Nevertheless the thoughts of the golfing world keep returning to it, and if there is a man in a billion who could achieve it, he is Thomas Sturges Watson.

His final round at Augusta this year was, like that at Muirfield, quiet rather than high drama. He had won the Open in the third round; in the Masters a four-shot Nicklaus lead after two rounds had become two to Watson after *three* rounds and the testing times were few in the last 18 holes.

CHESS

LEONARD BARDEN

Last week Professor Mikhail Botvinnik, greatest of the Russian world champions, was in London for an Imperial College conference on chess computer advances. Pergamon Press, who sponsored his visit, organised at short notice a clock simultaneous match between Botvinnik and the England under-18 team on eight boards.

Despite the double handicap of advancing years (he will be 70 in August) and an 11-year gap since his last tournament at Leiden 1970, Botvinnik still showed many touches of the extra-class which makes him the No 3 of all time on Professor Elo's rankings next to Fischer and Capablanca. He produced

The England junior team also emerged with credit from the afternoon, as one would expect given their high scores in previous simuls against Petrosian and Spassky. Botvinnik finally won by the narrowest margin of 4½-3½, which he admitted was the best result against him in simultaneous chess of his entire career. To the question "Are English juniors as good as those in Russia?" his reply was "They're not so good as Kasparov" adding that the answer could really only be decided by a match. All previous challenges to the USSR Chess Federation from England for such a match have been rebuffed, but it is hoped, with Botvinnik's recommendation, there will now be a change of heart—your move, Moscow.

Two casual remarks by Botvinnik during his visit will give pause *for thought. When Martin* Richardson, head of Pergamon's chess series, read out the ratings of his junior opponents and started with Hodgson's at 2380 (British grade 222), Botvinnik said: "That's almost the same as my computer." Perhaps the comment was tongue in cheek (Botvinnik is noted for his dry wit) but it was clear that he hopes his chess computer programme, one of the two major areas of his work since he abandoned tournaments, will set new high standards. It will be demonstrated in public next year in Moscow.

Botvinnik's second remark came just before his display. On the wall I had put up the latest results from the Lone Pine and Moscow tournaments which were then in progress. Botvinnik studied the chart from Moscow which showed Gary Kasparov, at 17 his star pupil, tucked in with 2 out of 3 just half a point behind world champion Karpov in one of the strongest all-play-alls (FIDE category 15, average rating 2601 or 250) ever held. "Everything up till now for Kasparov has been preparation, this is the first real test," said Botvinnik, whose chess school produced both Karpov and Kasparov. "Everything," it should be noted, includes Kasparov's third place in the USSR championship, the gold medal in the junior world championship, and the grandmaster title. . . .

White: Mikhail Botvinnik.
Black: Alan Byron.

Opening: Ruy Lopez (Botvinnik v. England juniors 1981). 1 P-K4, P-K4: 2 N-KB3, N-QB3: 3 B-N5, P-QR3; 4 B-R4, N-B3; 5 BxN, NPxB?

The source of Black's later troubles; the normal recapture with the QP is superior. As played, White reaches a favourable form of the Steinitz Defence Deferred where Black cannot maintain his centre by P-KB3.

6 N-B3, P-Q3; 7 Q-Q4, PxP; 8 QxP, B-N5: 9 P-K5! P-B4; 10 Q-K3!

Forcing the pace, and already looking ahead to a dark-square attack on Black's castled King.

10 . . . PxP; 11 NxP, B-K3; 12 0-0, B-Q3; 13 P-QN3, 0-0; 14 B-N2, R-K1; 15 P-B4, B-B4; 16 Q-B2, P-N3?

Creating another dark-square hole round his king; he should try *N-K5*.

17 QR-K1, P-B5; 18 P-KR3, PxP; 19 BPxP, P-KR4; 20 K-R1, Q-B1; 21 Q-R4, R-K3; 22 N-B3!

A regroup to drive off the defenders of the QR1-KR8 diagonal.

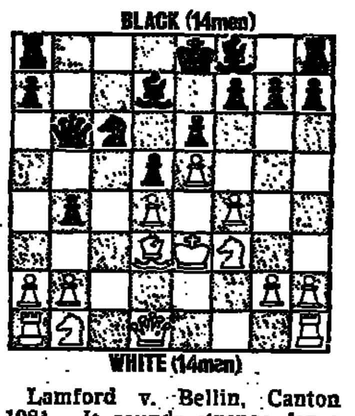
22 . . . B-K2; 23 N-N5, N-R2: 24 N-Q5, B-Q1: 25 Q-N3!

With a deadly threat of Q-QB3, hence Blacks' desperate sacrifice.

25 . . . Q-Q2: 26 NxR, BxN: 27 N-K3, P-R5; 28 Q-B3, R-N1; 29 P-B5! (Completing the demolition). PxP: 30 NxP, N-N4: 31 Q-QB3, P-KB3; 32 NxP, B-Q4: 33 R-B5, B-K2 (a blunder, but the game is hopeless): 34 RxN ch, PxR; 35 QN7 mate. A game with the power and logic of Botvinnik's championship days.

POSITION No. 367

BLACK (14men)



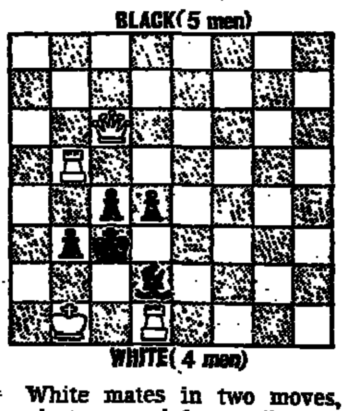
WHITE (14men)

Lamford v. Bellin, Canton 1981. It sounds strange for a Scottish airline to fly a chess-playing Welshman to China to lose to an Englishman in 14 moves. But it happened on the recent British Caledonian-Batsford international tournament between British and Chinese players.

This diagram shows the position after White's 13 K-K3. Tournament winner Bellin (Black, to play) now made a subtle move. White's natural reply failed to spot the threat, and Black's 14th brought immediate resignation. How did the game go?

PROBLEM No. 367

BLACK (5 men)



WHITE (4 men)

White mates in two moves, against any defence (by M. McDowell, The Problemist 1981).

Solutions Page 10

FINANCIAL TIMES
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Saturday April 18 1981

A celebration of virtue

THE STOCK market, which for three days seemed to be sharing the doubts we expressed a week ago about the imminence of the new dawn, finally shrugged off any such feelings on Thursday. Impressed by a batch of economic figures which ranged from no-worse-than-expected to downright encouraging, it took off more or less vertically, to achieve a rise of a little under 20 points on the day.

A shortage of stock has combined with reviving optimism—even the CBI was moved to a comment which could not be construed as an actual moan. The result was predictable.

Though we retain some spoilsport doubts about the nature of the present improvement, it is a pleasure to observe this spring-like mood, for it implies a new climate of opinion which would do a lot to help future policy decisions.

Six weeks ago, we welcomed the general stance of the Budget (though not its details). We have, after all, been arguing for years that excessive public borrowing against a background of monetary restraint must depress the economy, not stimulate it.

However, that was a relatively lonely view at the time; some comment even from the City sounded more like an expansion of the protest from the Cambridge 364. So even in our own most obstinately convinced moment, we did not imagine that the market would celebrate a "deflationary" Budget by climbing to new heights. If responsible budgeting is such a tonic for confidence, the fashion for responsibility may prove lasting.

We would not, of course, claim that everyone has been brooding about deep economic theories and revising their previous views. It is all much simpler than that.

Big impact

What has happened is that the ordinary businessman and investor has heard the Chancellor say that he has decided to raise taxes in order to cut interest rates, and decided that this makes sense. He has subsequently noticed that even a small cut in interest rates has a large impact on the exchange rates, especially when rates elsewhere are rising.

This may all sound very obvious, but until very recently serious economic analysts would have denied both these propositions. Their equations showed no predictable relationship between public borrowing and interest rates, or between interest rates and the exchange rate. So much the worse, the reader might conclude, for the equations.

This may sound like economic philistinism, but it would be as much a mistake to treat the academics with contempt as it was earlier to treat them with undue reverence. The fact is that the developments of recent decades have left them with the wrong tools for the job the public seems to expect of them — a species of weather forecasting. Equations developed to detect small change in well-established trends have been about as much use in our recent upheavals as a rowing eight in a storm at sea. There is no base to measure from.

That is why governments have been driven back on the simple housekeeping economics misnamed monetarism. It may be crude, but it is better than nothing.

Out of date

Even in calmer times, economists are much better at analysing the past than forecasting the future, because of a difficulty proclaimed 20 years ago by Mr. Harold Macmillan. One is always operating with last year's Bradshaw (which used to be the standard railway timetable). Statistics are always out of date, or highly inaccurate, or both; that is why the crucial forecast known as the Budget judgment starts with an exercise known as "forecasting the recent past."

There is a further Catch 22 which dictates that if a figure is accurate (registered unemployment or the visible trade balance) it is very hard to know what it means. The important figures—for real output and incomes, growth and productivity, profitability and the rest—are subject to such large revisions as evidence rolls in that major national crises, such as the sterling crisis of 1964, can vanish without a historic trace. You can't explain events if you don't know what's happening.

These thoughts are rather relevant at the moment, because the statistics which the market was celebrating on Thursday may be the last even remotely reliable figures we will see for some weeks, if the present discourtesies between the Government and the Civil Service persist. The trade figures have gone missing, others will no doubt follow and those that remain—for Government borrowing and money, for example—will be hopelessly distorted.

We may have to revert to the habits of another generation, when judgments were based on knowing a chap in brickmaking or paper or shipping, or the amount of money staked on the Derby. There is even an old rule that the market rises and falls with hemlines, though it is not clear which is cause and which effect —stockbrokers can be excitable. Another old rule says "Sell in May and go away"—but going away is now difficult. The safest rule is to enjoy the holiday, wherever you may be.

AFTER BRIXTON

'I was born in Trinidad, but my children were born in England. If the Government wants to, it will change the rules and kick us all out'

By Anatole Kaletsky and Lisa Wood

THE man with the loudest voice in the Coach and Horses in Brixton last Tuesday was Ron, a white social worker from a youth centre in Hackney. As everybody knows, social workers, particularly white ones in black areas, represent no one.

But Ron does not fit the Surrey commuter's image of a typical social worker. He is a former policeman in his forties, with staunch Conservative views. His son is a policeman and he has no time for the "young thugs and layabouts" who ran amok last weekend in the centre of Brixton, where Ron lives. He believes that much of the trouble was fomented by political agitators and "self-styled" community leaders who will now cash in, both politically and financially, on the riots.

Ron is hardly typical of the white residents of Brixton, either. His wife is black, his friends are black, he has two white children by a previous marriage and three black ones, and the predominantly black kids he works with in Hackney have brushes with the law almost daily.

In short, Ron is a one-man microcosm who straddles the dividing line between black and whites, between authority and insecurity. More importantly, he represents the progressive blurring of these distinctions. For, whether racists, fascists, Rastafarians, Trotskyists or "respectable" political opportunists like it or not, Brixton is already well on the way to becoming a thoroughly multi-racial society.

Last weekend's riots can be interpreted either as the growing pains of a society gradually moving towards racial integration or as the latest omen that racial tension will eventually tear society apart, particularly when it is exacerbated by a high level of unemployment among the young. Which of these interpretations eventually proves correct may depend in large measure on what people are now prepared to believe. For there is plenty in Brixton to suggest that a genuinely multi-racial society is achievable. But racial insecurity, partly fostered by the deliberate actions of successive governments, can all too easily destroy the cohesion on which all societies must base their systems of preserving authority and order.

The people of Brixton may take it for granted that their neighbours or friends will be a different colour from themselves. But, whether they are black or white, they are still far from believing that they live in a society in which the "native" population, as politicians are fond of calling it, includes the black and the brown people who were born here. Successive governments must bear part of the blame for perpetuating the idea that only whites can be truly British. For it has become part of the common ground of British politics over the past 15 years

Why are so many black people in Brixton so hostile to the police?

that coloured immigration, rather than colour prejudice, is Britain's fundamental racial problem.

"Enoch Powell is the most honest politician in Britain. He is the true voice of the people. Ninety-nine point five per cent of the white people think that the blacks don't belong here, and they're probably right." That was an extreme comment, but the people standing around nodded when they heard it. They were not neo-fascists. Like the speaker, they were black, respectable, middle-aged and reasonably well-off.

A black carpenter put the same proposition more practically: "I was born in Trinidad, but my children were born in England. They've had British passports all their lives, but that won't make any difference. If the Government wants to, it will change the rules and kick us all out."

Only when feelings like this are taken on board do the mutual suspicions between the blacks and the police become comprehensible. Nobody in Brixton suggests that politicians' speeches, nationality laws or fears of deportation were an immediate cause of the rioting. And there are plenty of blacks, as well as whites, who believe that the young looters were used as tools by others — whether these were political extremists or organised gangsters is a subject of heated dispute. "The agitators were sowing their seed on fertile ground," said one middle-aged black man, after violently denouncing the rioters for "behaving like beasts."

Almost all the blacks and many of the whites who live in Brixton seem to agree that "the ground is fertile" for violence, because of the antagonism between the police and black youths. "If they treat us like animals and scavengers, if they line up outside our clubs to swear at us and arrest us for no reason, why shouldn't we attack them when we get the chance?" was a typical comment from a young black watching the demolition of a burnt-out house in Railton Road. How many of the stories of harassment are true may emerge from Lord Scarman's public inquiry.

But the normal police reaction to all such accusations —that the policing of Brixton is not very different from the policing of other high crime areas, where breaches of discipline or misjudgments can and do occasionally occur — begs another more difficult question. If this is true, then why are so many black people in Brixton so hostile to the police? As Ron, the former policeman in the Coach and Horses said when asked why Brixton was not patrolled by more black policemen: "Round here a black policeman would need two white policemen to protect him."

Chief Superintendent Peter Watson, of Scotland Yard's community relations department, believes that a degree of tension is inevitable in areas such as Brixton: "The police are there to do their job, which is to enforce the law. A certain sector of the community contain many people who are breaking it. Brixton has the highest rate of street crime in London and we have to strike a delicate balance between heavy-handed interference with the law-abiding majority and the need to stop the criminals."

At the beginning of this month the Lambeth police launched "Operation Swamp," a "saturation policing" campaign, which involved more than 100 plain clothes policemen and led to a doubling of the normal rate of arrests. Chief Supt. Watson believes that while such operations may produce only a temporary drop in the rate of street crime, and may alienate parts of the community, alternating intensive and lower-profile police activities is a necessary part of the "fine tuning" which local police commanders have to employ, given the scarcity of police resources, in order to meet the fears of the community without oppressing those who obey the law.

Does this mean that last weekend's riots were caused not so much by antagonisms towards the police as by wider political factors? Were they fomented by professional revolutionaries? There are certainly plenty of Trotskyist groups, such as the Socialist Workers' Party and the Workers' Revolutionary Party active in Brixton.

However, militant groups like this exist all over Britain. Neither they, nor Brixton's high unemployment and social deprivation, could have been the root cause of the riots. Over the past week it has become increasingly clear that opinions in Brixton are so diverse and the feelings of the youth are so volatile and anarchic that no political party or individual leader can claim even to speak for the disaffected young blacks, never mind to lead them.

The Brixton Defence Committee, whose chairman, Mr. Rudi Narayan, has attracted most attention as a spokesman of the black community, was only set up in the aftermath of the riots. Although Mr. Narayan, a black barrister, lives in Lambeth, his main practice is in Birmingham and it is there that he has been involved in local politics. There is no evidence that the young rioters feel any more affinity with the Defence Committee and Mr. Narayan than they do with other political parties or with other middle-aged community leaders, such as Mr. Courtenay Laws of Lambeth Council or Mr. George Greaves of the Council for Community Relations in Lambeth, who are well known locally.

Indeed, there are claims in Brixton that if anybody was goading on the young rioters, it may have been organised gangsters, rather than political activists. Railton Road, which was at the heart of the riot, is also the centre of a thriving drug, prostitution and illegal gambling scene, which has recently been the subject of increasing police attention. The derelict buildings there have been used alternately as squats, political meeting places, drug distribution centres and venues for perfectly legal, if boisterous, youth entertainment. Separating all these strands in the area's life would challenge even the most skilful and experienced police force.

If trust for the police breaks down, the difficulties of policing become immeasurably greater. Last weekend's violence was sparked off when the police picked up a black youth who had been stabbed. The police say they were taking him to hospital. Local youths say the police were manhandling him and trying to extract information instead of helping him.

A doctor at King's College Hospital who has dealt with hundreds of injured people brought in under police custody had this reflection: "Say a drunk comes into Casualty with a stab wound. When I touch him he might push me away and say, 'Get your bloody hands off me'. All I have to do is let him go and say, 'Go to hell and bleed to death then'. He soon comes to his senses. But when the police bring someone in and he struggles, they feel they have to assert their authority. If they're young and inexperienced they may use unnecessary force and a nasty incident develops."

Police forces are confronted by problems like these in many parts of Britain. But it is almost unimaginable that riots would follow police activity in an area without a large black population.

Whatever gloss the police may put on their own operations, even the moderate community workers in Brixton, Such as Mr. Greaves, believe that "the job of policing itself is not racist, but many of the policemen are. I'm not saying they all harrass young blacks, but they do all cover up for each other.

Racial tension becomes most explicit if police demand to see coloured people's passports or birth certificates. Chief Supt. Watson states that "examination of passports has to be authorised at Commander level and this is normally done only at the request of immigration authorities." But people in Brixton claim that passports are sometimes demanded when police break up black parties or arrest black people for reasons totally unconnected with immigration offences.

Whether the Scarman inquiry supports such allegations remains to be seen. But whether it does or not it will have to find an answer to people like the Rev. Graham Kent, a white Methodist Minister at the Railton Road Community Centre, who says: "I have felt the anger of these people for a long time. There was no need for outside organisers. If I had been black, I would have done the same."

The next thing which Mr. Kent asid may point in the right direction: "The House of Commons must give a lead. Mrs. Thatcher in 1979, with her speech about immigrants swamping Britain, sent out certain signals that a set of attitudes was acceptable. She now says that money does not create trust. I say that money can help create the conditions in which trust can develop."

But even if there is to be no money, there is much that national politicians can now do to create more trust and confidence in the black community. Many people in Brixton think that the new nationality laws, for one thing, are a move in exactly the opposite direction.

Letters to the Editor

Devaluation

From the Managing Director, Farrat Machinery.

Sir, — I cannot wholly agree with the letter of Messrs. Gibson and Weale, published on April 10. They contend that a 10 per cent devaluation would lead to a 9-10 per cent increase in import prices, but possibly no more than a 3 per cent increase in prices of UK-produced goods. I agree that the £ is over-valued in relation to our industrial performance, but it is not when related to money wages vis-a-vis western Europe and U.S.A.

My impression of the UK domestic and industrial markets is that the home producers determine selling prices, in conjunction with gullible buyers. We have been a society with a "high inflation expectancy" for many years, and producers, workers, sellers, buyers and Government have all helped to stoke up the fire. Home producers' manufacturing and marketing methods determine UK selling prices, not foreign competition.

If cheaply imported goods were sold in the UK at prices prevailing in the rest of western Europe and the U.S., they would, I estimate, undercut UK produced equivalents by anywhere between 15 and 35 per cent. Most foreign goods are sold in the UK at the same level as the often, I am sorry to say, less-appealing British product. Why not? Why should importers cut their margins unnecessarily?

If a 10 per cent devaluation really did produce such a small rise in UK prices as 3 per cent, hardly credible when inflation runs currently at 12 per cent in the depth of a recession, all it would mean would be a small cut in the very healthy importers' margins.

R. J. M. Farrell.
Farrat Machinery,
Balmoral Road, Altrincham,
Cheshire.

Banks

From Mr. W. Kaye.

Sir,—In writing to support Mr. Paul Tillett in his views (April 14) I would suggest that much as I admire his argument against the special levy on banks, he is at a disadvantage, because the tax is not based on logic. I would certainly be far more caustic about your article of April 9.

To infer that banks have a monopoly because they operate in a similar way could be equivalent to arguing that car manufacturers have a monopoly because they all include a steering wheel.

You also say that it is worth noting that the banks do not protest against subsidising the Bank of England. It is indeed just as much a tax, but I fail to see how this can be put forward as an argument. It is almost equivalent to saying that because one did not voice too much objection to having one's bicycle stolen, one should accept the theft of one's motor car as permissible.

If one takes into account the subsidised competition from the National Savings Bank and the building societies, plus the cost of the Bank of Engand, one suspects that the UK clearers are reasonably efficient. This is no doubt due in no small measure to satisfactory policies of expansion and cost containment coupled with responsible co-operation by the staffs. In this respect it is difficult to vaoid mentioning other sectors of industry (private, public or graphic).

Perhaps one could argue that large bank profits are against the public interest, but what harm have they ever done? The shareholders cannot by any stretch of the imagination be said to have reaped undue benefit, the staff have done reasonably well recently but on balance merely keep pace with inflation and this year it seems will have to be content with a fall of around 7 per cent in real wages (after tax). I am not saying that I agree with all the Government's policies and principles but at least one should be able to hope that a political party would be true (at least) to its fundamental principles, and it is the cynicism which is nurtured by such political expediencies which causes the greater distress.

W. E. Kaye,
32 Primrose Chase,
Goostrey, Cheshire.

Water

From Mr. F. Solari

Sir,—Thames Water, in an understandable endeavour to console, and win the esteem of, its customers, has included a note with its current demand for water services charges extolling its virtues and expressing pride in its achievements. One such achievement is that of keeping "our average increases in charges lower than the increase in the retail price index. The RPI on April 1, 1981, is expected to be 275 (taking April 1, 1974, as 100) while our increase in average charges (taking April 1, 1974, as 100) is 267." I hope that Thames Water's annual accounts do better than this. If the average charges really have increased by 267 (taking April 1, 1974, as 100) then they must now be 367 which is an awful lot more than the RPI. But maybe someone has got his words and not his figures crossed up, and he doesn't really mean what he has written?

F. Solari,
Oakside,
Duffield Lane,
Stoke Poges, Slough.

Rates

From Mr. D. Frost

Sir,—Mr. John Williams (April 8) claims that "Industry is more of a collecting agent than a payer of rates" and that "the incidence falls on the domestic ratepayer."

This view appears to be prevalent among many local authorities at the present time, but any direct contact with industry would show it to be without foundation. Only 10 per cent of firms in the west Midlands are working at full capacity. In order to maintain production and safeguard the jobs of their employees, manufacturers are being forced to hold down output prices. Indeed, many firms have cut prices in order to stay in business. It is absurd to believe that large rate increases can simply be passed on to the consumer. It is also worth noting that large rate increases for domestic ratepayers manifest themselves through increased wage demands.

The attempt by local authorities to blame central government expenditure cutbacks for large increases in rates would carry a lot more conviction if they appeared to be making economies across the board. Wages account for approximately 70 per cent of local authority revenue expenditure, yet at a time when the manufacturing industry has shed 11.5 per cent of its workforce since mid-1979 and when unemployment increased by 66 per cent during 1980, local authority manpower decreased by only 1.9 per cent. Some boroughs, such as Wolverhampton (+3.6 per cent) actually increased the number of full-time employees.

Local authorities should be taking notice of the plight of industry, which provides the lifeblood of the local economy. Firms are unable to soak up large increases in rates and the only result will be a worsening of the current recession.

D. S. Frost.
13, Sandstone Close,
Dudley, Worcs.

Titles

From the Chairman, Ambrose Investment Trust

Sir,—I wonder how many companies are aware of the problems they will meet and the expenses they will be forced to incur when they change the affix of their name from "Limited" to "Public Limited Company" or PLC for short.

Apart from the costs of reprinting the memorandum, the change is apparently regarded as a change of name, but there is no consistency between company registrars' requirements when the change of name, sic, is reported.

Some wish to see the actual certificate of registration of the new affix issued by the Registrar of Companies, others are content with a photostat copy; some are satisfied with a copy of the reprinted memorandum and a certified copy of the board resolution necessary for the change and others will accept a notification on the company's note heading, with or without signature.

As the change is a statutory requirement which in time will have to be made by all public companies why cannot all registrars accept the fact without the palaver and costs involved. In any case the legal requirement is that the certificate shall be exhibited at all times in the registered office of the company which of course is impossible if it is floating around the country from registrar to registrar as it would be in our case with some 300 companies involved. To add to the problems, some registrars insist on the return of certificates and charge a fee for issuing a new certificate.

S. W. Penwill.
Ambrose Investment Trust,
London Press Centre,
76, Shoe Lane, EC4.

Jerusalem

From Mr. T. Prittie

Sir,—May I thank your for John Roberts' fair and interesting review (April 11) of my book, "Whose Jerusalem?" Perhaps I may be allowed to correct one set of figures and comment on what I believe may be one misunderstanding?

Mr. Roberts suggests that there are 250,000 Jews in Jerusalem, and 150,000 Arabs. This would give a ratio of five Jews to three Arabs. The true figures in 1979 were 287,400 Jews and 110,800 non-Jews (some of them not Arabs). This gives a ratio of just under eight Jews to three Arabs. The difference is substantial.

In addition, Mr. Roberts remarks that there is "no question of Arab mayoral elections" in Jerusalem. Indeed, there cannot be separate mayoral elections in a unified city. But the Arab population could, if it wished, run its own candidate. It would, incidentally, be one of the advantages of a borough system, such as I tentatively suggested in my book, that several boroughs would be in a position to elect Arab mayors of their own.

Terence Prittie.
Britain and Israel,
126-134, Baker Street, W1.

Voting

From the Chairman, Conservative Action for Electoral Reform

Sir,—On my return from holiday I have just seen a copy of Mr. S. Rankin's letter (April 7).

Those who support proportional representation in the Conservative Party do so in the belief that this change in our electoral system will give greater long term stability of Government policy and thus enable industry and investment to proceed with greater confidence in the future. We do not claim that PR in itself is a panacea and of course it must be linked to the right aims and policies among which adherence to the market economy as a regulating factor, must be given high priority. We believe in fact that if any Government was in office long enough the truth of this view would become self evident if only by a process of trial and error. It is indeed interesting that even Labour Governments have moved in this direction once they have been in power for a few years.

The trouble with our present electoral system is that Governments remain in office for too short a time for the learning process to take place. They come into power with a bag full of pledges to fulfil based not on experience, but on theories nurtured by opposition to the Government in office.

It is very interesting to note that in countries using proportional representation, such as West Germany, coalitions of the so called left pursue policies well to the right of anything suggested by our Conservative Party and are certainly thoroughly appraised of the virtues of belief in the market economy.

A. F. Wigram.
6, Queen Street, Mayfair, W1.

Why Victor Lownes—hailed five months ago as the dominant personality in British gambling—is out of the scene

Playboy: from bunnies to balance-sheets

WITH THE dramatic sacking in London of playboy businessman Victor Lownes, Playboy Enterprises of Chicago made clear this week that its present management style is much more sober and less charismatic than the company's worldwide image.

Not that Lownes' well-publicised hedonistic life-style, with its lavish parties, girls and high living, was the reason for his abrupt removal. This was caused by problems on the London gaming scene, a vital source of income for Playboy, which has three casinos there.

The group's U.S. management decided that recent police and Gaming Board objections to renewal of its valuable UK casino licences meant that Lownes, head of the British operation, had to go, along with his deputy, William Gerhauser.

"We are determined to retain our licences and to maintain our high standard of integrity and efficiency in managing casinos," Derick Daniels, president of Playboy, said in a letter to the group's 2,000 UK staff members. Ladbroke Group and Coral Leisure, both once major casino companies, are now out of gaming following police and Gaming Board opposition, leaving Playboy in top place.

It remains to be seen whether the drastic action just taken will work. The police and Gaming Board objections centre on alleged breaches of the Gaming Act covering treatment of cheques and credit. Lownes, who also ran the international gaming operations of Playboy refers to "technical interpretations of one part of the law."

Another casualty of the Chicago management's stiff new broom was Mr. Clement Freud, the gourmet Liberal MP, who has resigned from the board of the UK company at the group's request. He is said by the police to have gambled in Playboy Club while a director. This is forbidden by the Gaming Act.

Daniels insists that the way Lownes, whose 53rd birthday party yesterday was overshadowed by his dismissal, lived played no part in the sacking. "It might not be the way I would choose personally to live, but this was nothing to do with it," he said while in London this week.

It is clear that the new UK chairman and his deputy are cast in a different mould. Marvin Huston, now chairman of the UK operation, said he would attempt "straightforward business direction" with his managing director in London, Frank Di Prima, who intends to spend 16 hours a day in the office. Huston will still be Playboy's finance chief.

Playboy's casino troubles in London come just as the group is risking its future growth and profitability in the Atlantic City gambling scene. Its new and distinctly upmarket casino in this shabby resort in New Jersey is a bold and expensive attempt to attract high-rolling gamblers from as far as Europe and Saudi Arabia rather than the herds of slot machine players who are the bread and butter of casino gambling in the U.S.

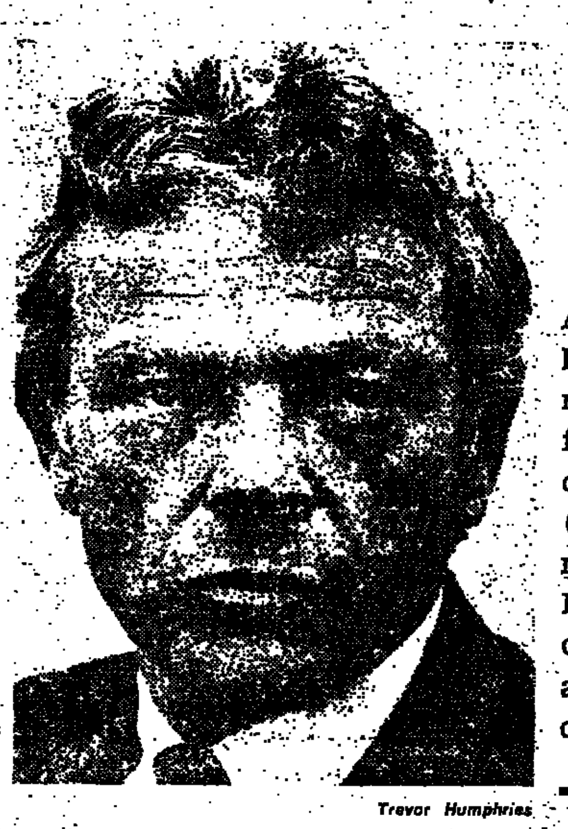
The project is Playboy's most ambitious step to date, and was conceived on the profits of the London casino operation which have helped stage Playboy's impressive financial turnround in the last five years.

The combined hotel and casino in Atlantic City, where casino tower blocks stick out like sore thumbs amidst the decrepit shacks and waste lands, have cost $135m (£60m). Playboy has put half of this, the *rest coming from Elsinore Corporation*, a gaming company 27.5 per cent owned by the Pritzker family of Chicago who also control the Hyatt Hotel chain.

The casino, opened only a few days ago and is described by *Playboy as having a "European* touch." Since most of the $31m of pre-tax gaming revenues earned in the financial year to June 30 last came from London, *Playboy has clearly decided* that class can be made to pay in shabby Atlantic City.

Playboy's is the seventh casino in the faded U.S. resort, where gaming table revenues have slipped recently with tougher competition and stringent regulations.

Las Vegas in the Nevada desert is the only other place where gaming is permitted in the U.S., though other states may well get in on the act in the next few years. This is a major potential risk for Atlantic City and the casino companies there, though Playboy will consider setting up in those states which legalise gaming.



Trevor Humphries

Andrew Fisher and Paul Betts report on Playboy's new image being fostered by its president, Derick Daniels (left). "A dumb move" was how Victor Lownes (right) described his sacking in a bid to keep the group's casino licences in Britain.

Along with its casino in Atlantic City is a huge 500-room hotel, with a cluster of shops in the London Arcade. Non-gaming temptations will include lavish revues called "Playboy Fantasy" with lots of singers, dancers, Bunny girls and a 500-lb tiger.

This gave Playboy a far-flung revenues have been the major force behind its recent profits advance. Back in 1974-75, its net earnings after tax were a mere $1m, but by last year these were up to $13m on sales of $363m. This recovery was largely due to Daniels' policies aimed at repairing the damage caused by Hugh Hefner's ill-fated diversifications, especialy into films and records.

hTis gave Playboy a far-flung entertainment empire. But between 1972 and 1978, circulation of the magazine dropped from 6.9m to 4.8m. It then pulled ahead slightly but is now around the 5m mark. In contrast with many other magazines Playboy is only mildly erotic, and profits from here *last year were less than half* those from gaming, while clubs and hotels lost nearly $5m.

If Atlantic City does not work, therefore, Playboy could be struggling. Possible loss of the London casinos would push the group further into trouble at a time when consumer spending is hardly booming, as its latest profits show.

Second quarter net earnings to December 31 were only $1.35m, against $3.2m for the previous year, with the first half producing $8.18m after tax against $8.85m, a result of recession and rising costs.

Daniels, who joined Playboy from being an executive with Knight-Ridder Newspapers, said *of the start-up of the new U.S.* casino that "it's been going marvellously for two days." As for New York or any other states legalising gaming, he felt this was a few years off yet.

Discussing Playboy's recent progress, he harked back to the days in the early 1950s when Hugh Hefner started the business "on a kitchen table with $600." By *the late 1960s and* early 1970s, "there was so much money that they didn't know where to stack it all."

At this point Playboy, he said, "caught conglomerate fever." When recession hit in 1974 and 1975, it suffered badly, having spread itself much too thinly. As for the change in management style since then: "It's like changing your pants in the middle of a 100-yard dash."

One area, apart from casinos, where Daniels sees plenty of long-term growth is pay cable TV. The idea would be to package the Playboy magazine in small-screen form, including one to two hours a day of *special* programmes on *modern* life-styles, fashion cars and bikes, with "at least a certain amount of nudity."

This project is barely off the ground yet, with a small staff in Los Angeles working on possible programmes. Since subscribers can pay for what they want on cable TV, Daniels said: "If they had small children they didn't want exposed to frontal nudity, they wouldn't have to take it."

Hefner himself is not involved in the day-to-day running of Playboy. Aged 54, two years older than Daniels, he is more concerned with thinking for the future, though Daniels refutes suggestions that Playboy's founder does not work, or very little, at all.

"He draws the long-term charts," said Daniels. "He says 'Daniels — go get us there!' Sometimes I do and sometimes I don't." Before being headhunted to work for Playboy, *Daniels had never met Hefner*, whom he describes as "not cut out of the same cookie cutter as other chief executives," and as having the sort of mind "that shoots out laser beams."

On the night of his sacking, said Lownes ruefully the next day, he spoke to Hefner on the telephone to California. "He approved everything 100 per cent." *Hefner, chairman and* chief executive, still owns over 70 per cent of the group himself and his daughter Christie is vice-president.

Lownes does not agree that his sacking, after 26 years with Playboy (including 18 in London) is justified or the right way to go about keeping the casino licences, following police raids in February. "I felt it was a dumb move."

Flanked by his blonde Californian girl friend Debbie, he said in a taxi after a television interview: "The company is not saying I've done anything wrong. They said 'Take this man's head.' It strikes me as bizarre."

With bonuses, Lownes, an American, was earning as much as $500,000 a year. Over the next three years, he will get at least $750,000 in compensation and he owns 64 per cent of Stocks, the £1m Hertfordshire mansion where many of his parties have been held, includ*ing that for yesterday's birth*day. Also, "I have $5½m of my own stashed away."

Lownes' enviable lifestyle made him one of the most obvious embodiments of the Playboy image. Though bitter, he is concerned about the future of the Playboy staff and desirous of helping the company to keep its casino licences. For their part, the staff seem highly upset about the sacking.

One thing is clear from the latest events, however: Playboy is not run by playboys. Said Daniels: "Running Playboy's operations doesn't mean that the people have to live the *dream they are selling*. I work very hard to sell it, but I don't live it."

Despite the attractions of the lifestyle that Playboy is trying to sell, "I spend much more time with balance sheets than I do with Bunnies."

Weekend Brief

Fleet Street's colour war

The Sunday colour magazine market is a crucial battlefield in Fleet Street's circulation war. The familiar monolithic tripartite struggle between the Sunday Times, Observer and Telegraph magazines is now broadened by the entry of a fourth combatant — the *Sunday* Express magazine — will soon see a fifth—the News of the World magazine—and possibly, in the Sunday Mirror and the new Sunday Mail, a sixth and seventh.

Can the country's Sunday breakfast tables support them all? More important for them, can the nation's recession-bound advertisers support them? Ron Hall, the editor of the Sunday Times magazine, is as analytical as you would expect a Sunday Times man to be.

"On the one hand the more outlets you have on the market, the more you encourage advertisers to think of you as a sector in your own right and to allocate cash to you. On the other, you could get the same cake halved among more offers.

"There will also be a temptation for the downmarket magazines to go for more and *more direct response* advertising which makes them look like mail order catalogues, and might drive away other advertising — devaluing the currency, so to speak."

Still, Hall believes that the pressures of competition and of falling circulation among the popular Sundays—especially the Express and the News of the World—will force the pace and crowd the market.

John Anstey, the editor of the Sunday Telegraph magazine, takes the optimistic part of Hall's analysis. "There's a tendency for advertisers to settle down. There's the possibility that the new magazines will bring in new *advertisers*, like food which we've never had before, so we all benefit."

Polly Patullo, assistant editor of the Observer's magazine, notes that the Express magazine put on around 250,000 to its circulation last Sunday, but didn't dent the Observer's. "We're in different markets. I doubt it would affect the *advertising* and it certainly won't affect our editorial content."

Down at the new Express magazine, associate editor, Audrey Slaughter, is full of predictable enthusiasm. "Public response to ads has never been so heavy 800,000 people wanted a copy last week and couldn't get one. The magazine *plans to* go up to 96 pages later this year."

Slaughter and her colleagues have adopted the revolutionary plan of giving the readers what they want to read, she says. "Not what the photographers want to put there to impress their colleagues."

The reactions of her established competitors are for the moment, muted.

The Observer: "We do think that photographs are important. That's part of what a colour magazine's about".

Telegraph: "We don't see them as competition".

Sunday Times: "I think they have as yet not quite found themselves".

A day for aviation buffs

Aviation buffs and others with nostalgia for those ancient flying machines in which magnificent men cavorted restlessly about the skies can enjoy themselves hugely this Bank Holiday Monday. For once again, the Shuttleworth Collection, which represents the only private collection of vintage aircraft and motor vehicles in Europe, and one of the biggest in the world, is holding one of its now famous flying displays to open the spring and summer season.

Sited on its own grass airfield only two miles west of the A-1 at Old Warden, near Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, the Shuttleworth Collection was founded more than half a century ago by Richard Shuttleworth, whose original policy of "making everything work" is as valid now as it was then. Some of the world's oldest and most famous aeroplanes fly there regularly, and some of the oldest vehicles are driven around.

Among aircraft flying on Monday will be the Avro Triplane of 1910 design, making its first public appearance in the air for more than four years, while additions to the exhibits on view on the ground will be the 1934 de Havilland DH-88 Comet of England-Australia air race fame (an aircraft which eventually helped in the design of the Mosquito fast, light bomber), and a 1938 Hawker Hind light bomber which was found in Afghanistan and brought home some 6,000 *miles overland*. The Avro Triplane flying on Monday will be supported in the air (weather permitting) by a cross-section of the 30 or so unique historic aircraft in the collection.

To add to the thrills, the flying display will include a synchronised aerobatic "duo" by a pair of Belgian Stampe biplanes, some precision parachuting by a team from the Pernod Skydiving Team, and some light relief by the popular little Wallis Autogyro of James Bond renown.

On the ground, the visitors will be able to see a Spitfire, a Bleriot 1909 monoplane, a range of Rolls-Royce aero-engines and a wide range of vehicles including a Panhard Levassor car of 1898, a de Deitrich racer that achieved 60 mph at Brooklands in 1903, and a hobby-horse bicycle of 1818 which the rider propelled with his feet on the ground.

Loads of yeasty hay

The life of a theatre critic is nothing if not varied. Last Sunday evening I popped into my lively local hostelry, the Load of Hay on Haverstock Hill, Hampstead, to find myself surrounded by "a private play" written by Bernard Kelly, an unemployed poet.

The *"gig" had been insti*gated by my friend and neighbour, National Theatre actor Dave Hill. He had conceived of the bright idea of commissioning a piece from Acme Acting, a telephone service theatre group who enliven dinner parties in the area by performing Tennessee Williams in your *kitchen (or Psycho in your* bathroom).

Theatre as a private, ultra-elitist activity has long been the preserve of such Continental gurus as Jerzy Grotowski and Eugenio Barba. They perform po-faced scenarios on the human condition for the benefit of tiny *numbers of select friends*. Acme Acting are blowing a refreshing populist wave through this genre by eschewing major issues, addressing themselves directly to the chosen few and leaving subsidised sociology lectures to "currently successful and highly committted playwrights of the respectable Left."

In the Hampstead bar, the piece began with a furious row between an actor in a bald wig impersonating Dave Hill laying into his wife (the equally delightful actress Jane Wood) on the subject of her drinking and smoking. Accustomed as I am to front row stalls, I impinged closely on the action in order not to miss a word. Expletives accumulated, *violence ensued, "Jane Wood"* ducked and your intrepid correspondent received a large gin and tonic full in the face.

For one who has endured the tactile advances of the Living Theatre and the Global Village, this seemed a small price to pay by way of a critic's contribution *to the gaiety of nations*.

The play moved next door to the Hill's Victorian studio accommodation which they share with TV actor and fringe theatre magician Ken Campbell and his actress wife Prunella Gee. Miss Gee came in for some cruel baiting on her upper class origins. This was unfair but not half as unfair as Acme's mistake of excluding an appreciative audience from the play's last act by performing it in Bob *(Pennies From Heaven, The Long Good Friday)* Hoskins's jeep driving northbound to the Railway Tavern on South End Green. To their eternal credit, they returned for a reprise outside the Load of Hay and an impassioned, irresponsible epilogue from the author.

The audience included wrestler, writer and National Theatre actor Brian Glover; the "human bomb" and star of *Tiswas*, Sylveste McCoy; rising stars Patti Love and Peter Postle*thwaite (the latter currently* appearing with Hoskins in *The Duchess of Malfi* at the Round House); and TV drama producers Tara Prem and Richard Eyre.

It was a great and famous evening, and I thought I should give you a taste of what you *have all, quite rightly, missed*. As a social and cultural phenomenon, the event threw up ominous portents, the significance of which I have not yet compelled myself to contemplate.

Nipping the Big Apple

France's cheekiest food critics have bitten deep into the Big Apple and come up with a mouthful of worms in their first review of New York City's famed dining establishments.

The just published *Guide New York* by Henri Gault, 51, and Christian Millau, 52, two of France's foremost gourmet writers, has a decided lack of enthusiasm for American cuisine and the plates prepared by such New York kitchens as the 21 Club, Sardi's, Elaine's, Cafe Geiger and Sea Fare of the Aegean.

In the past few years the two tastemasters have left many *a French chef boiling* mad with the caustic culinary critiques in their respected *Guide de France*. The pair has been sued more than two dozen times for their bitter attacks, but they have never lost a case.

Their latest guide is aimed at the 400,000 Frenchmen who visit New York each year, the fourth largest tourist group after the British, West Germans and Japanese.

Gault and Millau award *"toques,"* French for "chefs' hats," for standards of excellency. Two restaurants in Paris rate the top notch four *toques*. Not a single New York *restaurant was accorded that* honour. In three-*toque* restaurants, the score is Paris 13 and New York 2, for Four Seasons and Lutece.

"The amazing thing about American food is not that it is bad," Gault and Millau wrote, "but that the majority of Americans believe it's very good." In attempting to explain what they perceive as a lack of taste buds in the U.S., Gault and Millau warn their readers that America is a land where television commercials advertise a certain brand of fish sticks whose main selling point is that they "have no taste of *fish*."

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Hewden-Stuart drops to £2.95m but payment up

A SEVERE deterioration in the level of activity in the winter months meant attributable pre-tax profits of **Hewden-Stuart Plant** tumbled to £2.95m for the year to February 1, 1981, down £5.58m on the previous 53 weeks period. Turnover of this plant hirer and seller dropped to £96m, against £109m in 1979-80.

Despite the profits decline and the immediate short-term outlook, the year's dividend is effectively being improved from 1.25p to 1.275p net with a final of 0.8p. Gross earnings per 10p share fell from 9.71p to 3.35p.

The directors say budgets indicate the group will be operating at a low level of profitability in the first half of the current year and at present, no positive signs of any upturn are seen in the areas of the economy which the group serves.

The group's financial position is very strong, the directors add. At the year end, bank overdrafts and other borrowings had fallen from £22m to £18.9m.

Trading surplus for the year decreased to £17.28m, against £21.34m for 53 weeks. Depreciation was up from £8.23m to £9.89m, while interest increased from £3.4m to £4.28m, giving group profits of £3.11m (£9.11m).

The attributable pre-tax figure was struck after reduced minorities of £84,000 (£581,000) and pre-acquisition profits of £79,000 this time. Tax, including ACT, took £518,000 (£506,000) and after dividends, the retained balance emerged at £1.31m, compared with £6.93m.

● **comment**

Life got progressively tougher for Hewden-Stewart as the year progressed. By November the group was in the red and utilisation had fallen to 50 per cent of capacity. Margins on available business were wiped out by intense competition with charges falling beneath the previous year, a particularly severe setback on the operator plant hire side as wages increased by 15 per cent last July. The company responded by turning off the capital expenditure tap, cutting stocks from £12.6m to £8.8m. These measures enabled borrowings to be reduced from £22m to £18.9m, giving capital gearing of 47 per cent, and reducing the group's interest bill in the second half in marked contrast to most of its competitors. No further capital spending is planned for this year as the group hopes its three-year modernisation programme, completed in summer of 1980, will stand it in good stead until the upturn is underway and the industry's overcapacity is mopped up. The group traded at a loss in the first two months of the current year but edged into the black in April. Interim earnings of £¾m are in sight. The group has failed to produce CCA accounts on the grounds these are "costly" and "of no benefit" so its report will be qualified accordingly. The shares at 42p, unmoved by the hefty loss at Richards and Wallington, gain support from the dividend and strengthened balance sheet.

Solicitors' Law dives £630,000 into the red

IN THE second half of 1980, the **Solicitors' Law Stationery Society** dived ino the red to finish 1980 with a pre-tax loss of £630,000, against profit of £409,000 previously, on turnover down from £23.97m to £23.05m. No dividend is being paid, compared with a net 1.474p total in 1979.

The directors say that in the present depressed state of the economy it is not possible to give, at this stage, a responsible forecast of 1981 results. However, a real improvement in the group's position is anticipated in the coming months, particularly as a result of steps being taken to stop loss-making activities.

In Canada, **Richard De Boo** lost money at a substantial rate throughout the year. The residual value of the company's investment in De Boo was written out of the accounts at the half-year, and the company's contract for the management of De Boo was terminated in October with the agreement of Canadian partners International Thomson Organisation.

The board has decided that the company's involvement in De Boo will not be of any benefit in the foreseeable future and in the circumstances has agreed in principle with its partners that there should be a reorganisation of the De Boo capital. This will result in the total disengagement of the company without further cost and the elimination of the contingent liability.

The group's traditional business produced a modest profit, which was a fair performance in difficult circumstances, including a strike in the printing industry.

The year's deficit was struck after an increased share of associates losses of £199,000 (£50,000) and interest up from £449,000 to £521,000. Tax credits were lower at £151,000, against £495,000, while extraordinary debits more than doubled from £331,000 to £691,000.

Loss per 20p share was 4.16p (earnings 7.84p).

● **comment**

Solicitors' Law has been forced to chop off those operations which, with the ample evidence of hindsight, have proved a costly diversion to the central, and still profitable, business of supplying textbooks and stationery to the legal profession. The surgery leaves the group almost 100 per cent geared and sometime this year it will be putting bank debt on a secured basis. It is confident of reaching attributable profits this year and therefore should make some inroads into borrowings although there is almost certainly more printing rationalisation to come. The shares dropped 1p on Thursday to 27p and there is no immediate dividend support on the horizon. Looking, perhaps optimistically, to the medium term, Solicitors' Law expects consolidation of the residual profits which its position in its traditional market should still infer and over the longer term the fragmented legal profession should provide as fertile ground as any for software packaging and the exploitation of the "electronic office." That, however, supposes that a thorough overhaul of the internal management systems and the strength of the historic profits base leaves the new board a reasonable platform for expansion.

York Trailer deficit near £2m

LOSSES of **York Trailer Holdings**, which amounted to some £1.2m in the first nine months of 1980, escalated further in the final quarter to leave a pre-tax deficit of £1.99m for the whole year, compared with profits of £694,709 for 1979.

The first quarter of the current year, according to Mr. Fred W. Davies, chairman, will be as bad as any previous period.

The group's Canadian parent, York Transport Equipment, is currently trying to sell its 60 per cent stake. York Transport is 75 per cent held by Northants Investments of Ontario, a company owned by Mr. Davies's two sons, and the proposed sale of the stake in York Trailer stems from the UK group's decision to withhold management fees due to its parent.

The group's net loss last year amounted to £3.98m after an extraordinary debit of £2.17m relating to asset realisation and rationalisation, which included £446,000 redundancy costs—the workforce was cut by more than 1,000. The net surplus for 1979 was £720,143.

The largest trading loss was suffered in the Anthony Carrimore subsidiary, states the chairman. These losses have at present been stemmed.

Sales of the group, which manufactures commercial semi-trailers and third-axle assemblies, fell from £39.44m to £31.06m during 1980.

There was a tax credit of £111,000 against a charge of £25,000 and minorities' losses of £65,102 (£50,434).

The loss per 10p share is shown as 17.87p (5.11p earnings) and the final dividend, like the interim, is omitted. The previous year's total pay-out was 1.973p.

● **comment**

York Trailer's preliminary figures on Thursday added little to the gloomy picture which had been built up, quarter by quarter, during the year. Pre-tax losses in the final three months were—at around £0.8m—very much on course. A revival of orders lately may signal the beginning of a long-run recovery, but does not weaken the probability that York will have lost another £0.5m in the first quarter of 1981. The important fact is that the 60 per cent stake held by the Canadian parent company is still on the market, and prospective purchasers must weigh York's £7m of borrowings—£4m of it bank overdraft—against the £4.5m price tags placed on the properties which have been put up for sale. Stocks still stand in the balance sheet at £7m, even after heavy write-downs, a valuation which the company hopes that lengthening order-books will show to be conservative. At an unchanged 15p, the market capitalisation of York is £1.65m.

First-half setback for Linread

AS FORESHADOWED at the annual meeting, poor first-half results are reported by **Linread**, maker of cold forged fasteners. Continued losses in the commercial products division and its supporting units resulted in a pre-tax loss of £242,000 for the 26 weeks to January 31, 1981, compared with profit of £122,000 last time, on turnover more than £1m lower at £7.69m.

Losses are expected to be reversed by the year-end but the total profit will be low.

Lack of profit combined with increased working capital has raised borrowings to unacceptable levels and as a result the interim dividend is being omitted (1p net) despite an improvement in current activity and brighter prospects. Last year's total payment was 2p per share on £297,000 pre-tax profit.

The recession proved even more severe than expected in the half-year leading to the closure of the group's Washington factory. The provision for redundancy costs have been included in the half-year's loss as an exceptional item of £70,000.

The current order position for commercial products has improved since January but is still below the level needed to generate consistent profits in this division and its supporting units.

Tax for the half-year took £39,000 (same) and after minorities of £32,000 (£35,000) the loss came out at £313,000, against £48,000 profit. Stated loss per 25p share was 5.84p (0.9p earnings).

Tilbury trims loss to £0.63m

ALTHOUGH making a strong recovery in the second half, **Tilbury Contracting Group** still ended 1980 in the red. There was a pre-tax loss of £629,213 compared with £681,778 last time which was after a £2m exceptional charge.

Turnover for the year fell from £56.9m to £55.7m, while UK operations incurred a loss of £648,869 (£1.31m profits).

Mr. P. Edge-Partington, the chairman, says during the year trading in the UK has become increasingly difficult.

He says a careful review of the group's activities has taken place.

Extraordinary items contributed £2.82m, the principle amount of this being the release of earlier deferred tax provisions relating to stock relief.

After extraordinary items, there was a profit of £1.99m (loss £763,990). The final dividend is unchanged at 16.37586p for a same-again total of 22.37586p.

There was a loss per £1 share of 41.48p (17.29p) weighted average method, and 41.42p (17.26p) fully diluted.

On a CCA basis there was a pre-tax loss of £1.82m (£1.7m profit) with the loss per share being 101.8p (69.1p).

Results due next week

PRELIMINARY figures from **Rowntree Mackintosh** on Thursday will reflect difficult trading conditions in both the home market and overseas. While Rowntree appears to have kept its share of a declining market, margins have been slashed because of a higher break-even point after the recent expansion in capacity. The strength of sterling and a heftl rise in interest charges have also posed problems. At the interim stage pre-tax profits were down by 54 per cent but some recovery in the second half should bring the figure for 1980 into the £29m to £31m range as against £40.4m in the previous year.

Any uncertainty over Vickers' dividend was removed months ago by a forecast of 12p given in connection with the Rolls-Royce Motors merger. At the same time, both parties to the merger forecast higher profits for the year. The base from which analysts have started is therefore that the group's underlying profit must exceed £15m; a maximum of optimism extends this into an estimate of £20m. The pre-tax profit will also include a large element of compensation for Vickers' former shipyard interests; including accrued interest, this year's accounts could benefit by £8m.

In February, before the Lonrho bid for **House of Fraser** had been referred to the Monopolies Commission, the Fraser directors made detailed estimates of their company's profit in the year ended on January 31, 1981. The preliminary statement is to be published on Thursday and no one is looking for any deviation from those estimates—pre-tax profits of £34m compared to £37.2m and earnings per share above the 15.02 figure last year. The final dividend would be raised to 4.6p from 4p, making 6.6p for the year and the directors said there was a "more promising outlook for the current year."

Brokers' estimates of the preliminary pre-tax figure to be announced by **Delta Group** next Wednesday circle around £20m, compared with £30.4m last year. Profits in the second half will probably be less than half the 1979 figure; £7.5m seems likely. The reasoning is that the engineering business in the UK will be producing only about two-thirds of the trading profits seen last time, despite possible improvements in marine products. Sharp decline from cables should outweigh the benefits of loss elimination in the ERM division. Good performances from South Africa and Brazil should not obscure the future effects of recent disposals in both countries. Delta has shown an exceptional regard for CCA figures and, although the interim dividend was paid after a current cost loss, a cut—to maybe 2.2p net—seems on the cards at the final if the analysts are right about the trading picture.

Dunlop, which reports preliminary figures on Thursday, has probably experienced deteriorating conditions since the interim stage. The vital UK tyre side remains poor, especially for commercial vehicles, while the European tyre businesses have weakened with the decline in motor sales on the Continent. The outturn could be £20m before tax compared with £26m last year but much depends on accounting for redundancies. The only bright spots are likely to have been the subsidiaries in the Far East and Africa and the associate Pirelli's operations in Brazil. However, the final dividend, like the interim, should be held at 2.65p.

The crucial factor behind **W. H. Smith's** preliminary figures which are due on Tuesday, will have been Christmas trading. The company has remained extremely reticent but has indicated the late shopping rush made up for early lost ground. That said, most analysts are going for a figure slightly below last year's £18.1m with £16.5m for the year-end January 31, 1981, at the bottom end of the range. The D-I-Y interest should have crept into the black at trading level but net of finance costs are probably still in loss. The bright spot will be UK wholesaling where earnings should be up on last year thanks to higher newspaper and magazine cover prices.

Other results due next week include preliminary figures from **British Aerospace** on Tuesday. At the time of the £150m BAe floatation in February, the directors estimated that 1980 profits were £52m compared with £50.3m in 1979. **Tozer Kemsley and Millbourn** and Curry's report preliminary figures on Tuesday as well and **McKechnie Brothers'** interim results are expected on Thursday.

Company	Announcement due	Dividend (p)* Last year Int.	Last year Final	This year Int.
FINAL DIVIDENDS				
Amalgamated Metal Corporation	Friday	3.0	11.0	3.0
Anchor Chemical Corporation	Tuesday	2.38	2.92	2.38
Baird (William)	Wednesday	5.25	7.0	5.6
Barton and Sons	Tuesday	1.27273	2.0	1.4
Beauford Group	Thursday	1.4	2.75	0.7
Bentalls	Thursday	0.3	1.05	0.3
Biddle Holdings	Wednesday	2.4	6.2	2.4
British Aerospace	Tuesday	—	—	—
Boustead	Tuesday	4.16667	0.83333	0.5
Callender (George M.)	Wednesday	0.605	1.045	0.7
Clayton Son and Co. Holdings	Friday	1.5572¶	4.6025	1.3975
Concord Rotoflex	Tuesday	0.5185	—	0.1
Currys	Tuesday	1.2	6.3	1.5
Danish Bacon	Wednesday	4.0	3.5	—
Delta Group	Wednesday	1.82	4.18	1.82
De Vere Hotels and Restaurants	Thursday	3.0	3.0	3.0
Dunlop Holdings	Thursday	2.65	2.65	2.65
Elbar Industrial	Wednesday	4.0	6.0	1.0
Electrical and Industrial Securities	Thursday	1.072	2.678	1.072
Estate Duties Investment Trust	Tuesday	0.72723	1.36364	0.8
Flight Refuelling Holdings	Thursday	0.76667	1.3	0.95
Fogarty (E.)	Wednesday	1.6078	2.41167	1.6
Futura Holdings	Friday	1.05	1.54	1.05
Grampian Television	Thursday	0.53	1.47	1.0
Haden Carrier	Thursday	3.25	6.75	3.6
Harris Queensway Group	Wednesday	2.0	4.0	2.0
Hestair	Thursday	—	1.0	—
House of Fraser	Thursday	2.0	4.0	2.0
Huntleigh Group	Thursday	0.58	0.61	0.7
Laporte Industries (Holdings)	Thursday	3.5	6.25	3.5
Lawrence (Walter)	Tuesday	5.2	3.5	2.5
Lilleshall	Wednesday	1.0	2.5	1.0
Menzies (John) Holdings	Wednesday	2.0	4.0	2.5
Owen Owen	Thursday	1.0	2.7	1.0
Perry (Harold)	Thursday	1.5	2.0	1.5
Rowntree Mackintosh	Thursday	2.5	4.75	2.5
Scottish Ontario Investment	Friday	1.0	2.15	1.0
Smith (W. H.) Holdings	Tuesday	1.4†	2.8†	1.4†
Smith (W. H.) Holdings	Tuesday	0.28‡	0.56‡	0.28‡
Sparrow (G. W.)	Tuesday	0.804	1.2	0.88
Steel Brothers	Thursday	3.15	4.85	3.15
Tozer Kemsley and Millbourn	Tuesday	1.59	3.18	1.59
Travis and Arnold	Thursday	0.58	3.0	0.64
Vickers	Thursday	3.85	5.954	4.55
Vosper	Thursday	2.6	2.0	—
Wadkin	Tuesday	2.25	4.22	1.5
Websters Group	Wednesday	0.7	1.4	0.7
Wilson (Connolly) Holdings	Wednesday	1.75	1.875	2.0
INTERIM DIVIDENDS				
Anglo Scottish Investment Trust	Thursday	0.9	1.5	
Arenson (A.) Holdings	Tuesday	0.52	1.41	
Arlen Electrical	Thursday	1.5	1.5	
Casket (S.)	Thursday	0.5	1.25	
Halstead (James) Holdings	Wednesday	0.8	1.6	
Low (Wm.)	Thursday	2.1	5.4	
Lowland Investment	Friday	1.6	2.15	
McKechnie Brothers	Thursday	2.0	5.2765	
North British Properties	Wednesday	1.0	1.8	
Spencer Gears (Holdings)	Thursday	0.35	0.65	
INTERIM FIGURES				
Highland Electronics Group	Friday			

* Dividends shown net pence per share and adjusted for any intervening scrip issue. † Paid on "A" shares. ‡ Paid on "B" shares. ¶ Includes a compensating dividend of 0.1597p to allow for the change in the tax rate.

BIDS AND DEALS

RMC bids for British Dredging

BY JOHN MOORE

A BID for British Dredging, the Cardiff-based aggregates and construction group, has been mounted by Ready Mixed Concrete, the building materials producer. The offer which places a value of around £4m on British Dredging was dismissed by Mr. J. Fane Vernon, chairman of the group, as "a miserable offer."

The bid, announced late on Thursday by Ready Mixed, has been triggered by British Dredging's arrangements over a £720,000 rights issue announced earlier this month.

Ready Mixed explained on Thursday that it has held over 25 per cent of British Dredging for a number of years. At the end of last year, Ready Mixed was approached by Mr. Fane Vernon for its support for a share issue which was to be underwritten by Equity Capital for Industry.

Ready Mixed considered at that stage it could not support the outline proposals. However it made it clear that it did not wish to obstruct the raising of further finance by British Dredging and, should this be necessary, it would be prepared to underwrite a rights issue.

"Nevertheless, the board of British Dredging has decided to proceed and has sent a letter to shareholders of British Dredging which contained notice of an extraordinary general meeting on May 1 1981, to consider an ordinary resolution to give effect to Equity Capital for Industry proposals," Ready Mixed said on Thursday.

"In addition, a special resolution to cancel the share premium account will be proposed." The board of Ready Mixed "can see no reason to change its view on the proposals, particularly since underwriting agreement grants Equity Capital for Industry extensive rights which are not available to other shareholders. Accordingly, Ready Mixed Concrete intends to vote against both resolutions in respect of its ordinary shares," representing 27.85 per cent of the equity.

Ready Mixed "considers that it is appropriate for the other shareholders in British Dredging to be offered an alternative to the proposed share issue."

Ready Mixed is, therefore, making an offer for all the shares in British Dredging subject "to the pre-condition that the ordinary resolution to give effect to the Equity Capital for Industry proposals is defeated."

Ready Mixed is offering British Dredging shareholders £35 in cash for every 100 shares which they hold or 17 RMC ordinary shares.

The acquisition would cost Ready Mixed £2.9m for the near 75 per cent of the equity which it does not own if the cash consideration is accepted in full or involve the issue of about 1.4m ordinary shares in Ready Mixed if the share alternative is accepted.

The cash offer places a value of 35p per share on British Dredging. On Thursday British Dredging's shares closed at 28p. RMC's shares rose 1p in Thursday's trading to 204p.

Mr. Fane Vernon said that there had been "no consultation, no discussion, and no notice whatsoever" about the bid. "It is opportunist." He added: "If Ready Mixed wants to make a bid for British Dredging it should make a proper bid when the rights issue has gone through. I don't believe that anybody should be allowed to walk over British Dredging or walk away with it.

"We shall certainly be asking shareholders to vote for the resolution on May 1 which will allow the rights issue to go ahead. Otherwise shareholders would run the risk of losing their rights and still be left with an unsuitable bid."

TKM and Imperial ready to create largest canner in UK

Tozer Kemsley and Millbourn (Holdings), the international finance and investment group, and Smedley-HP Foods, a subsidiary of Imperial Foods, have reached final agreement on the terms for amalgamation of their fruit and vegetable canning interests.

The merger results in Tozer Kemsley and Imperial each owning 50 per cent of TKM Foods which becomes the largest canning company in the UK with a turnover of around £50m a year.

The terms have been published just over a month after it was announced that discussions were taking place.

TKM Foods, prior to the merger, was wholly-owned by Tozer Kemsley, and with net assets of £8m represented by equity of £1m and £7m in inter-company loans. The pre-tax loss attributable to this investment in TKM Foods in 1980 was about £1m.

The share and loan capital in TKM Foods has now been restructured such that TKM Foods now has total equity and convertible loan capital of £11.5m owned equally by Tozer Kemsley and Imperial. This has resulted in a reduction in the assets attributable to TKM's investment from £8m to £5.75m. Accordingly, a write down of £2.25m will be taken in Tozer Kemsley's 1981 accounts.

Goldhanger Fruit Farms, wholly-owned by TKM Foods, has acquired the assets of the fruit and vegetable canning business of Smedley-HP, wholly owned by Imperial, for £9.5m paid in cash on completion. The assets acquired stood in the books of Smedley-HP at around £14m and the pre-tax loss attributable to those assets in 1980 was £1.5m.

Imperial has an option, exercisable in October 1983, to sell their 50 per cent interest in TKM Foods equity and convertible loan capital to TKM for £3m. Tozer Kemsley has an option, running until July 1982, to purchase that interest for £3m.

TKM Foods, which will manufacture and sell products carrying the "Smedley" brand name, is now the largest fruit and vegetable canning business in the UK, with a turnover in the region of £50m per annum. Both companies said that the commercial benefits to be derived from the merger will enable the enlarged TKM Foods company to produce a pre-tax profit in the first year of operation.

Denbyware agrees to new offer

The Board of Denbyware has agreed to the revised 124p a share offer from Crown House.

Last Monday Crown House, a small industrial conglomerate with interests in glassware, announced that it was increasing its cash offer for pottery manufacturer Denbyware from 80p to 124p, in the face of minimal acceptances to the first approach.

Crown House had made it clear that the revised offer was its last. It had built up its holding in Denbyware through purchases in the market from 29.98 per cent to 34.9 per cent.

The higher price values Denby at £5.3m.

Denby's board of directors and advisers, Minster Trust, are recommending the offer to other shareholders and will be accepting in respect of their own holdings.

William Press buys stake in Suter

William Press has bought a stake of just under 6 per cent in Suter Electrical. The company confirmed yesterday that the stake had been acquired through William Press Investments, a subsidiary with a declared intention of buying investments in the course of "normal trade." A slightly smaller stake was recently acquired in French Kier.

CHARTERHOUSE AND HILL INDUSTRIAL

Charterhouse Group which, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Charterhouse Development, has owned 18.96 per cent of the ordinary shares of **Hill Industrial Holdings** since 1966, has acquired the remaining 81.04 per cent from Mr. D. V. Hill and his family interests and others.

Net assets of Hill are currently estimated to amount to £1.33m and comprise, in the main, freehold land and buildings in Hampshire.

The consideration is based on net asset value and a first payment of £800,000 was made on completion, comprising cash of £81,415 and 825,959 Charterhouse shares. Further payments, comprising only cash, will be made as the value of Hill's net assets is established. The total consideration is not expected to exceed the net asset value.

Caparo Group reduces holdings

Caparo Group, the private holding company which recently acquired an indirect controlling stake in CMT, has disposed of two sizeable minority stakes in companies in which it played no management role.

On Wednesday Caparo sold its entire 13.7 per cent holding in Berwick Timpo, the toy manufacturer and reduced its holding in Singlo Group, the discount food retailer, from 32.1 per cent to 5 per cent.

Commenting on the disposals, Mr. James Leek, Caparo's finance director said, "Management effort is being concentrated on CMT. It is now our policy to sell minority stakes where the group does not play a management role."

No further shareholdings would be sold, he said. The group has a 30 per cent stake in Barrow Hepburn, the hide and leather processors, and Mr. S. Paul, Caparo's chairman is on the board. The group has no other shareholdings in excess of 10 per cent.

Mr. Leek said the group made a small profit on the sale of the Singlo shares which netted nearly £1.6m and broke even on the Berwick Timpo shares which were sold for £539,000. Most of the Berwick Timpo shares were placed by brokers Rowe and Pitman with financial institutions, several of which now hold 5 per cent, according to Mr. John Oakley, Berwick's chairman.

Charterhouse Japhet, which together with Caparo and Mr. T. Norman, Berwick's chief executive until May 1979, unsuccessfully attempted to gain board control of the toy manufacturers 18 months ago, also disposed of its stake on Wednesday. Mr. Norman no longer holds any shares in Berwick.

Mr. Oakley commented: "I always feel more relaxed when large shareholdings are sold." He added that the relationship between Berwick and Caparo had been amicable.

Caparo has no immediate plans to reinvest the proceeds raised by the share disposals in new ventures but Mr. Leek indicated the group would consider buying minority shareholdings in companies in the same field as CMT namely engineering and steel products, provided it could play a management role. "We are always able to find a little corner on the plate," he said.

Hawley makes protective move

Hawley Leisure is seeking shareholders' approval to buy up to 49.99 per cent of the issued share capital of **Provincial** in the event that its agreed one-for-one share offer for all the shares of Provincial does not go unconditional.

This provision, which is included in the proposed EGM resolutions in connection with the bid, is intended to protect Hawley in the event that a successful counter-bid is mounted for Provincial.

Provincial holds effective control of Hawley through its 15.7 per cent stake, while Mr. Michael Ashcroft, chairman of both companies, holds 32 per cent of Provincial.

In another development, **Highclere Investments**, which holds just under 6 per cent of Provincial, is opposing the terms of the Hawley bid for Provincial.

Mr. Roger Doughty, managing director, said he found the terms inadequate considering that Provincial's assets were worth about twice as much as those of Hawley in the pro-forma balance-sheet contained in the bid circular.

Mr. Ashcroft has argued that the assets of the two companies are of about equal value after considering that Hawley has written off large amounts of good will on acquisitions while Provincial's assets are mainly in quoted securities.

Hawley shares were unchanged on Thursday at 61p, while Provincial's were off 1p to 80½p.

McLeod criticises London Shop asset growth

THE DISPUTE between **London Shop Property Trust** and **McLeod Russel**, the tea plantation group which bought a near 15 per cent in the property group in December, continued on Thursday with another letter to shareholders.

Mr. John Campbell, managing director of McLeod, accused London Shop of a poor record of asset growth by comparison with other property companies in a second letter to shareholders, and rejected London Shop's argument that the proceeds of the proposed rights issue would be used to improve the quality of the property portfolio.

McLeod is concerned at the dilution of its holding now 20 per cent, which could occur through the proposed two-for-five convertible loan stock issue.

Mr. Campbell said that he supported London Shop's desire to improve the quality of its portfolio but this would not be achieved through "further investment in tertiary retail properties." This would only maintain the company's underperformance as evidenced by the 57 per cent growth in net assets in the past three years compared to the average growth of net assets of property companies of 90 per cent, according to an index published recently by Rowe & Pitman, stockbrokers to London Shop.

Mr. Campbell urged shareholders to vote against the rights issue and warned that McLeod might sell its stake — a move which it believes would lead to a sharp fall in the share price.

Mr. High Jones, London Shop's chairman, has argued that the company intends to invest the £4.87m rights issue in "very good quality" secondary property which could be improved by its expertise. He has also denied that the rights issue has been mounted as a defence against a possible takeover by McLeod.

Sale of 7.75m Intasun shares completed

Barclays Merchant Bank, in conjunction with brokers Grieveson Grant, has completed the sale of 7.75m ordinary shares in **Intasun**, the leisure group. The sale is the prelude to the group's launching next Friday on the Unlisted Securities market.

Applications were received from 4,400 applicants for 10.3m ordinary shares. The sale price was fixed at 91p, 6p above the minimum tender price. Applicants who offered 91p have been granted 45 per cent of their applications with a minimum of 100 shares. Applicants willing to pay 92p or above have been satisfied in full, as have employees of Intasun who offered 91p.

LONDON AND MONTROSE

First-half attributable revenue of **London and Montrose Investment Trust** fell from £449,066 to £394,287 in the six months to March 31, 1981 after tax of £213,419 (£230,303).

The net asset value per 25p share was 139.8p (99.6p) and the interim dividend, paid on April 3, was 1.2p.

Paterson Zochonis preference issue

Paterson Zochonis is proposing a capitalisation issue of 4.7m 10 per cent cumulative preference shares of £1 to the ordinary and "A" ordinary shareholders on the basis of three new shares for every 10 ordinary or "A" ordinary shares held on April 30.

The company's stockbrokers, Cazenove and Henry Cooke, Lumsden have agreed to place the entire issue by May 12 at a net price of not less than 90p a share.

The directors and other individuals and trusts associated with them have agreed to place their preference representing more than 46 per cent of the issue.

The issue is being made because very substantial liabilities to capital gains tax will fall to be met by the trustees of certain of the Zochonis and other family trusts in consequence of the deemed disposals which will arise on termination of those trusts.

The directors and the individuals and trustees associated with them intend to vote in favour of the resolutions at EGMs for the two classes of shareholders. They hold 63 per cent of the ordinary shares and 39.5 per cent of the "A" ordinary shares.

Scrip issues for the ordinary and "A" ordinary shares are also proposed, on the basis of two new shares of the appropriate class for each one held.

See Lex, Back Page

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corresponding div.	Total for year	Total last year
Bristol Stadium	0.6	May 27	0.5	0.6	0.5
Walter Duncan	12	May 21	12	12	12
J. E. England	0.4	June 5	0.4	0.8	0.4
General Scottish	1.9	July 6	1.5*	2.9	2.5*
Arthur Henriques	1.2	—	1.2*	1.5	1.5*
Hewden-Stuart	0.8	—	0.79*	1.28	1.25*
M. P. Kent ... int.	0.58	—	0.5	—	1.9
Linread ... int.	Nil	—	1	—	2
London & Holyrood	3.75	July 24	3.5	5.75	5.5
London & Provincial	3.3	July 24	3.2	5.3	5.2
Thomas Marshall	1.58	May 30	1.58	2.78	2.78
Rowan & Boden	1.21	—	1.31	2.21	2.21
Scottish Mortgage	2.8	June 25	3.4	5.3	5.2
Solicitors' Law	Nil	—	0.72	Nil	1.47
Tilbury Contracting	16.38	—	16.38	22.38	22.38

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated.

* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues.

SPAIN

April 16	Price %	+ or −
Banco Bilbao	259	
Banco Central	343	
Banco Exterior	268	
Banco Hispano	291	
Banco. Ind. Cat.	124	
Banco Santander	341	
Banco Urquijo	181	
Banco Vizcaya	316	
Banco Zaragoza	214	
Dragados	138	
Espanola Zinc	75	
Fecsa	58.7	
Gal. Preciados	29	
Hidrola	64.7	
Iberduero	57.5	
Petroleos	84.2	
Petroliber	38	
Sogefisa	86	
Telefonica	60.2	
Union. Elect.	64.5	

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SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S COMPANY NEWS

Take-over bids and deals

Television South West, a private company, made a £2.38m bid for **Westward Television**, the company from whom it won the West Country TV franchise in the recent contracts reshuffle. TSW is making a cash offer of 24p per share for the non-voting "C" shares and 30p per share for the "A" and "B" shares with votes.

Dealings in the shares of **George M. Callender**, manufacturer of roof felting and damp courses, were suspended on Wednesday at 64p pending the outcome of discussions with an unnamed party which could lead to a bid for the company.

Flight Refuelling, the specialist aircraft component manufacturer, paid $24 per share for a 28.1 per cent stake in **Stanley Aviation** of the U.S., and intends to extend an offer for the outstanding shares at the same price. The initial stake cost Flight Refuelling nearly $3m (£1.4m), and the total consideration will exceed $10.6m (£4.9m).

Ladbroke paid £4m for **John Manley (Turf Accountants)**, which runs 30 betting shops in central and south-east London.

Company bid for	Value of bid per share**	Market price**	Price before bid	Value of bid £m's**	Bidder	Final Acc't'ce date
Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated.						
Avenue Close¶¶	88½§§	85	78	10.77	Peachey Property	—
Bond Street	44*	43	34††	1.19	Auchinleck	—
Bond Street	29§§	43	26	0.57	Grovebell	—
Bristol Evening Post	190*§	200	105	5.92	Associated Newspapers	—
Carlton Inds.	278*	277	255	74.65	Hwkr. Siddly.	—
Centreway	132§§	114	123	1.63	Centreway Trust	27/4
Denbyware	124§*	124	74	3.73	Crown Hse.	27/4
Hwthrn. Leslie¶¶	147*§	145	107	2.31	Starwest	—
Inveresk	35*	34	35	7.12	Georgia-Pacific	—
Lloyds & Scottish	200§*	197	185	144.21	Lloyds Bank	—
London and European	50½§§	44	44††	0.60	Bardsey	—
Negretti and Zambra¶¶	25*	30	30½	0.80	Western Scientific	—
Provincial	61	60½	57½	19.89	Hawley Leis.	—
Robrtsn. Foods¶¶	181	172	97	21.09	Avana	—
Royal Bank of Scotland	209½	168	168	471.79	HK and Shanghai Bank	—
Royal Bank of Scotland	*135§§*	*188*	*96††*	*303.43*	*Stand. Chartered Bank*	—
Ruo Estates	56§*	60	58	0.79	E. Produce and Laurie Plants.	—
St. Piran	50§*	65††	65††	4.11	Gasco Invs.	—
Savoy "A"	200	186	125	55.37	Trusthouse	—
Savoy "B"	£11¾	925	775	15.35	Trusthouse	—
Tunnel "B"	421§§	392	320	76.83	Ward (T. W.)	—
Warner Hols	151	139	64††	7.25	Grand Met.	—
Warner Hols. "A"	121	110	55††	4.25	Grand Met.	—
Westward TV "C"	24*	23	20	2.31	TV Sth. West	—
Wrighton	77½*	73½	70	3.49	Greenbrook	—

* All cash offer. † Cash alternative. ‡ Partial bid. § For capital not already held. ** Based on 16/4/81. †† At suspension. ‡‡ Estimated. §§ Shares and cash. ¶¶ Unconditional.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Company	Year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Earnings* per share (p)		Dividends* per share (p)	
Aberthaw & Brstl.	Dec.	2,570	(1,000)	53.4	(32.1)	10.0	(8.44)
Air Call	Dec.	627	(686)	19.6	(20.1)	2.63	(—)
Asthry. & Madeley	Dec.	1,220	(1,210)	15.1	(18.5)	5.0	(3.25)
Assoc. Biscuit	Dec.	7,230	(11,590)	6.2	(11.4)	4.44	(4.44)
Bambers Stores	Jan.	4,400	(4,070)	11.6	(9.2)	1.55	(1.34)
Bank of Scotland	Feb.	43,300	(40,600)	125.9	(76.4)	17.5	(15.0)
Barrow Hepburn	Dec.	1,760	(3,070)	4.8	(8.0)	2.2	(2.2)
Benford Concrete	Dec.	2,310	(3,000)	7.4	(6.4)	2.63	(2.63)
Beradin Rubber	Sept.	359	(441)	1.2	(1.5)	0.75	(0.76)
Berwick Timpo	Dec.	1,080	(1,520)	21.1	(25.2)	6.0	(6.0)
Bramall (C. D.)	Dec.	1,670	(1,780)	24.9	(33.5)	5.55	(5.26)
Burmah Oil	Dec.	62,300	(67,300)	19.5	(29.9)	6.5	(6.5)
Clyde Petrlm.	Dec.	1,140	(2,730)	21.2	(25.2)	2.2	(2.0)
Cory (Horace)	Dec.	311	(480)	2.8	(3.8)	1.3	(1.3)
Cosalt	Dec.	289	(1,710)	8.3	(12.7)	3.5	(3.5)
Croda Intl.	Dec.	7,440	(13,180)	6.7	(13.2)	3.1	(3.1)
Dewhirst (I. J.)	Jan.	1,940	(1,670)	8.3	(7.8)	1.6	(1.35)
Erith	Dec.	1,400	(1,660)	10.6	(9.3)	4.0	(3.75)
Expanded Metal	Dec.	1,050	(2,530)	7.2	(8.6)	4.5	(4.5)
Finlay Packaging	Dec.	429	(611)	3.5	(5.8)	1.5	(1.5)
Hallam Group	Dec.	83L	(339)L	—	(—)	—	(—)
Hallam Sleigh	Sept.	179L	(29)L	—	(—)	—	(—)
Hambro Life	Dec.	14,050‖	(10,850)‖	14.1§	(10.9)§	9.6	(7.2)
Hawker Siddeley	Dec.	113,000	(107,800)	35.2	(32.2)	8.2	(8.0)
Helene London	Dec.	1,020	(1,710)	3.1	(5.5)	1.48	(1.48)
Home Charm	Jan.	1,620	(2,790)	10.8	(19.4)	2.5	(2.3)
Hyman (I. & J.)	Dec.	521	(1,820)	2.3	(4.9)	0.83	(1.25)
Laird Group	Dec.	13,570	(10,730)	18.4	(15.2)	3.7	(3.4)
Lndn. & Cntintl.	Dec.	261	(216)	0.8	(0.2)	0.1	(—)
Lovell (G. F.)	Nov.	164	(338)	12.8	(20.6)	3.0	(8.0)
Lunuva (Ceylon)	Dec.	763	(222)	60.2	(17.1)	21.0	(17.0)
Martin (Albert)	Dec.	858L	(922)	—	(11.7)	—	(4.3)
Minet Holdings	Dec.	8,680	(8,470)	8.8	(9.2)	4.55	(4.66)
Nrthrn. Engn.	Dec.	26,060	(18,130)	10.7	(5.9)	3.75	(3.75)
Pearl Assurance	Dec.	10,450‡	(8,460)‡	29.0	(23.5)	20.0	(17.0)
Photax	Dec.	384	(463)	13.8	(10.9)	3.5	(3.5)
Provident Life	Dec.	708‡	(866)‡	14.9	(18.2)	11.4	(10.2)
Rdy. Mixed Cncrt.	Dec.	46,610	(47,280)	29.8	(33.0)	9.0	(8.25)
Rio Tinto Zinc	Dec.	507,000	(452,700)	61.6	(59.4)	16.0	(15.0)
Rugby Portland	Dec.	16,864	(15,111)	13.0	(12.3)	4.7	(4.7)
Savoy Hotel	Dec.	1,790L	(520)	—	(1.5)¶	1.15	(1.15)
Streeters Gdlmg.	Dec.	215	(1,040)L	2.9	(—)	—	(—)
United Carriers	Jan.	5,040	(4,030)	14.4	(11.0)	3.5	(2.5)

Rights Issues

British Car Auction—Is raising £2.18m by way of a rights issue on the basis of one for five at 66p per share.

Floyd Oil Participations—Is raising £2.8m by way of a rights issue on the basis of two for seven at 98p per share.

Laing Properties—Rights issue at par of £20,881,530 8¾ per cent convertible unsecured loan stock, 2005.

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Company	Half-year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Interim dividends* per share (p)	
Adwest	Dec.	1,530	(2,370)	2.1	(2.1)
Audio Fidelity	Oct.	215L	(142)	—	(—)
Burton Group	Dec.	20,440	(14,820)	—	(—)
Glaxo Holdings	Jan.	9,970	(9,260)	3.7	(3.7)
Ingall Industries	Jan.	89†	(79)†	—	(—)
Kalamazoo	Jan.	730	(2,050)	0.83	(1.25)
Land Investors	Dec.	*35,600*	*(30,320)*	3.75	(3.5)
Martonair Intl.	Dec.	80	(91)	0.81	(0.74)
News Intl.	Sept.	1,240	(1,160)	0.2	(0.2)
Smiths Inds.	Jan.	2,020	(2,660)	1.95	(1.95)
Wade Potteries	Jan.	218	(470)	0.5	(0.5)
Yorkgreen Invs.	Feb.	8,770	(9,340)	2.0	(2.0)

(Figures in parentheses are for corresponding period.)

* Dividends shown net except where otherwise stated. † For nine months. ‡ Profit after tax. ¶ Earnings on "A" shares. ‖ Actuarial surplus. § Earnings based on actuarial surplus. L Loss.

Scrip Issues

I. J. Dewhirst—One for three.

Photax (London)—One preference share for every four ordinary.

Offers for sale, placings and introductions

Cambridge Water Company—Is offering £2.5m of 8 per cent redeemable preference stock, 1986, at a minimum price of £102 per cent.

City of Swansea—Issue of £7m of 13¾ per cent redeemable stock, 2006, at £93¾ per cent.

Daon Development Corporation—London listing.

Electra Risk Capital—Offering up to £20m in floating rate unsecured loan stock.

Intasun—Offer for sale by tender of 7.75m ordinary shares at 86p each.

Pearsall Petroleum—Company is seeking a listing under rule 163 (1).

M. P. Kent expands by 37%

AN INCREASE of 37 per cent from £1.52m to £2.07m in pre-tax profits is reported by **M. P. Kent**, residential and commercial property developer, for the six months to December 31, 1980. Sales rose from £7.78m to £10.37m.

After a nil tax charge—£37,000 last time—stated earnings per 10p share are up from 6.9p to 9.7p. The interim net dividend is raised by 15 per cent from 0.5p to 0.575p—last year's total was 1.9p.

The Board says the policy of expanding into prime property developments for forward trading continues, and to this end a further major site acquisition has been made in Holborn, London, for a 40,000 sq ft gross office development.

It says satisfactory progress continues with other various existing property development schemes.

Thomas Marshall soars to £0.85m

AN INCREASE from £444,000 to £848,000 in pre-tax profits is reported by **Thomas Marshall and Company (Loxley)** for 1980. Turnover of this manufacturer of fireclay refractories rose from £17.27m to £18.11m.

The pre-tax figure was struck after interest charges up from £379,000 to £552,000. After tax substantially higher at £216,875 (£13,485) and redundancy costs of £174,000 (£20,000), profits came out at £456,802 (£410,914).

After a period of short-time working, the company was forced to close two works at Wrexham and to declare further redundancies at Sheffield. The number now employed by the group is 724 compared with an average of 1,133 in 1978 and 1,048 last year.

The chairman says home sales of the group's traditional products were adversely affected by reduced demand during 1980.

Following repeated phases of rationalisation both the public and private steel industries are now greatly reduced in size, and there is a marked absence of capital investment in the chemical, petro-chemical and other industries which it supplies.

It is more and more difficult, he says, to sell abroad against competitors who are not penalised by a currency that is strong for the wrong reasons, who do not have to bear such high interest charges, and whose governments have a more realistic approach to fuel prices.

During the year, the group set up its first overseas manufacturing plant and this is now moving into a profit position.

The final dividend is unchanged at 1.576p for a same-again total of 2.776p. Stated earnings per 25p share are up from 7.59p to 11.2p.

Walter Duncan advances

DESPITE A second-half decline of £58,201 to £274,892, taxable profits of **Walter Duncan and Goodricke** went ahead as forecast over the whole of 1980 from £532,093 to £674,892. At midway this investment holding company's surplus was more than doubled at £400,000 against £199,000.

After tax and an extraordinary item of £144,293 (nil) the attributable balance is £659,143 (£347,892). The single dividend is maintained at 12p net.

The surplus transferred to reserves amounted to £449,143 (£137,892).

Rowan & Boden falls sharply in second half

With second-half profits tumbling from £367,600 to £17,000, **Rowan and Boden** finished 1980 with a pre-tax result some £300,000 lower at £388,000.

Earnings per 25p share, of this furnisher, plastic manufacturer, floor and deck covering contractor, have fallen from 15.05p to 12.27p, but the total dividend is held at 2.21p with a final payment of 1.21p net.

Turnover of the company, which is a subsidiary of Noswal of Guernsey, rose from £11.41m to £13.63m for the year. There was a tax credit of £108,000, against a charge of £79,000. On a CCA basis a pre-tax loss of £139,000 is reported.

J. E. England in the black

BY concentrating on its two main areas of operation and withdrawing from its growing activities, **J. E. England and Sons (Wellington)**, Shropshire-based food and potato merchant, turned a pre-tax loss of £84,873 into profits of £60,234 for the year ended January 3, 1981.

Despite the difficult environment and the low level of potato prices, the Mosspak (Potatoes) subsidiary continues to perform well and the group is already benefiting from the rationalisation decisions of 18 months ago.

Stated earnings per 5p share are 0.59p (loss 0.27p) and the final net dividend is maintained at 0.4p, doubling the year's net total to 0.8p.

Turnover for the year fell from £31.53m to £13.37m, reflecting the drop in potato prices over the past 15 months and the ending of grain merchanting.

After a tax charge of £28,889 (credit £73,053) net profit came out at £31,345 (£11,820 loss).

The group's successful withdrawal from growing operations accounts for most of an extraordinary debit of £245,179 which with tax relief of £140,889 amounted to £104,290 and cuts the net figure to a loss of £72,945.

At halfway, when reporting a pre-tax profit of £36,843 compared with a loss of £95,514, the directors said that though in a cyclical industry it was difficult to forecast future upturn, there had been a large potato crop in the current year and prices appeared likely to be depressed for the remainder of the season.

Extra £1m tax provision by Forward Tech.

Forward Technology Industries is making provision for an extra £1m of tax over and above the £695,000 announced with the preliminary profit figures on April 8.

Deloitte Haskins and Sells, FTI's tax advisors, has drawn the company's attention to possible problems arising out of the stock relief clawback provisions in an Inland Revenue Policy Statement last November and in the current Finance Bill.

The new Finance Bill could, it is thought, lead to the repayment of £575,000 claimed for prior years, and the elimination of £425,000 it was hoped to have been claimed last year.

The company will be defending itself "forcefully" to Government after Easter to produce "mitigation of the company's position," but meanwhile believes the extra provision prudent.

RESULTS AND ACCOUNTS IN BRIEF

JOVE INVESTMENT TRUST—Net asset value per capital share at March 31, 3.14p.

BSR (sound reproduction and consumer products)—Results for year to January 10, 1981, and prospects reported March 19, in full preliminary statement. On CCA basis, pre-tax losses £23.48m (£5.38m) against historical loss £17.86m (£3.56m profit). Provision for bad debts £1.33m (£1.04m). Shareholders' equity £61.75m (£81.15m). Loan capital £470,000 (£567,000). Secured long term loans £6.45m (£3.19m). Bank overdrafts and short term loans £31.15m (£32.31m). Short term deposits and bank balances £6.97m (£8.59m). Meeting, Savoy Hotel, May 5, 11 am.

SEAFIELD GENTEX (textile manufacturer)—Results for the 15 months to December 31, 1980, announced March 2. Shareholders' funds £1.54m (£3.19m); cash and bank balances £234,345 (£16,996); creditors and bills payable £1.58m (£3.38m). Group's auditors, chartered accountants Cooper Magennis, state that provision has not been made for depreciation of buildings as required by SAP. 12. Meeting, Trim, Co. Meath, May 1, 3 pm.

BRITISH MOHAIR SPINNERS (comber, dyer and spinner)—Results for 1980 reported March 26. Shareholders' funds £13.22m (£9.92m); debtors £4.87m (£4.7m); cash £38,336 (£67,151); bank overdrafts £1.54m (£3.2m); creditors £1.29m (£1.55m). Chairman says present indications are that 1981 will be another difficult year. The actions taken in 1980 will place the group in a position of strength to take advantage of a revival in demand, but at present he says it is in appropriate to forecast results for 1981. Meeting, Bradford, May 7, noon.

MARTIN-BLACK (wire manufacturer)—Results for the year to end-December, 1980, announced April 4. Shareholders' funds £4.57m (£5.19m); bank loans and overdrafts secured £3.2m (£2.85m). At March 16, Britannic Assurance Company was interested in 350,000 shares (5.3 per cent) and Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society was interested in 680,000 shares (10.3 per cent). Meeting: Lanarkshire, May 5, 12.30 pm.

APPOINTMENTS

Group executives at Energy Finance

Mr. Grant Heatzig has been appointed a director of ENERGY FINANCE AND GENERAL TRUST HOLDINGS. Mr. Heatzig is chairman of Transatlantic Oil Company and also a director and founder of its operating subsidiary, Sigma Resources Inc. Mr. Andrew E. Nicholson and Mr. Peter Featherman have become directors of Energy Finance and General Trust Limited. Mr. Nicholson was formerly chief accountant at Carr Sebag and Co. and Mr. Featherman was a member of the corporate finance department at S. G. Warburg and Co.

★

Sir Robert Fairbairn will be retiring from the Board of the SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY at the annual meeting in April 29. He will be replaced on the Board by Mr. W. Brown, deputy chairman and managing director of Scottish Television.

★

Mr. D. C. B. Pilkington has retired as a director of COATES BROTHERS & CO.

★

Mr. Geoffrey Gray has been appointed head of investment to manage NATIONAL GIROBANK's sterling portfolio. He was previously sterling finance officer with the British Gas Corporation.

★

Mr. Michael J. T. Brown, managing director of Thomas Swain and Whiteley, a member of the Billington Group is the new president of the LIVERPOOL PROVISION TRADE ASSOCIATION.

★

Mr. Hendry M. Spiers, a director of Tay Textiles of Dundee, has been elected chairman of the FLEXIBLE INTERMEDIATE BULK CONTAINER ASSOCIATION. He succeeds Mr. R. Hall of Lolift (UK), who remains deputy chairman of the Association.

★

Mr. David Grimes has been appointed director of production and supplies by COPYDEX.

★

Mr. Tony Law has been appointed sales director by STANDARD ENGINEERING COMPANY and Mr. Bob Fisher has become marketing director. The company is a subsidiary of Halma.

★

Mr. D. Kelly and Mr. K. B. Wallace have been appointed directors of ROSSER & RUSSELL LIMITED, the holding company of the Rosser & Russell Group.

★

Mr. Roderick I. Clews and Mr. R. Victor Wood have been elected vice-presidents of the BRITISH INSURANCE BROKERS ASSOCIATION.

★

Professor Jack Small, the 1980-81 Hunterian professor of the Royal College of Surgeons, has been appointed to the board of REDDITCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. Mr. Francis C. Graves, president of the quantity surveyors division of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, has also joined the board.

★

Mr. C. S. Paterson, assistant general manager of NORTH SEA FERRIES, is now responsible for the co-ordination of marketing of the organisation and will be concerned with planning for the new ships. Mr. W. G. McCarthy, formerly hull manager, has been made UK manager.

★

THE NATIONAL COAL BOARD has appointed Mr. P. J. Griffiths, deputy director (mining) of the board's Western Area to be the new director of the South Nottinghamshire area from April 22. He succeeds Mr. F. Donald Davies, who has retired.

★

THE LONDON ELECTRICITY BOARD has appointed Mr. K. G. Harvey as chief engineer. He succeeds Mr. J. E. H. Cole who has retired.

★

Mr. Dennis F. Millar has been appointed a director of SHAMBAN EUROPA (UK).

★

Mr. Roger J. Leach and Mr. Sidney C. Beecham have been appointed to the board of THOMAS WITTER, part of the Tarmac Group's building products division. They will continue as directors of Permanitel, another part of the building products division.

★

Mr. John Munson, regional vice president for Syntex Pharmaceuticals Group, responsible for subsidiary operations and distributor affairs in Europe and Africa, has been appointed a vice-president of the parent company SYNTEX CORPORATION. Mr. Munson will retain his current responsibility and remain based in Maidenhead, Berks.

CORAL INDEX

Close 562-567 (+16)

Short-covering on Wall St.

FURTHER GAINS were scored in active trading on Wall Street on Thursday, led by Chemicals, Golds and Pharmaceuticals. Analysts cited a rush of short-covering prompted by the long weekend and expiration of the big April Options series. The market was closed yesterday, Good Friday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average finished 3.87 up at 1005.58, making a net rise of 5.3 over the holiday-shortened week.

The NYSE All Common Index, at $77.76, rose 30 cents on the day trimming its loss on the week to just 2 cents. Advances led declines by a three-to-two majority in a volume of 52.95m shares.

Meanwhile, analysts said, investors remain divided on the near-term outlook for interest rates and the economy.

Interest rates declined in the Credit Market following a 5.8 per cent rise in March Housing Starts to an annual rate of 1.28m units. However, February starts were revised to a decline to 26.9 per cent from the 23.4 per cent drop reported earlier.

Analysts also said investors continue to worry about the Money Supply report due late yesterday, even though the market will be closed. They fear that any further sharp increases in the money stock could send interest rates higher.

Volume leader American Airlines eased $⅛ to $17⅞, despite news of a first quarter profit. Trans World slipped $¼ to $27⅝—its first quarter loss widened.

Active Tandy jumped $3¼ to $69⅛—it will split two-for-one.

Johnson and Johnson gained $1⅞ to $111⅛ — it raised the dividend and said first quarter sales rose.

Warner-Lambert, which completed a restructuring, added another $⅛ in active trading.

Newmont Mining were up $1¼ to $62, Asarco $1⅝ to $43⅞ and Amax $½ to $59½. Westinghouse, which settled the last of its uranium suits, rose $1⅛ to $31⅞.

Time jumped $2¾ to $69 and R. J. Reynolds put on $¼ to $47⅞—each reported higher first quarter net earnings.

Texas Instruments declined $1 to $120¼—it reported a sharp March quarter profit drop and said first half net would be weak.

Polaroid tacked on $⅛ at $29¼—after the close, it reported a sharp drop in first quarter net earnings.

Rio Grand Industries jumped $5½ to $53.

The American SE Market Value Index gained 4.37 to 365.42 reducing its loss on the week to 3.08.

Oils were strong. Volume leader Houston Oil gained $2 to $48¼.

Canada

Markets rallied in late trading to close sharply higher on Thursday. The Toronto Composite Index rose 16.1 to 2355.2.

The Metals and Minerals Index moved up 44.9 to 2401.8, Golds 81.1 to 4163.4 and Oil and Gas 55.0 to 4568.5.

Several stocks rose on takeover news. Westburne International jumped $5 to $33 in active trading and its United Westburne subsidiary $3 to $52—Trimac, which lost $1 to $46¼, said it has discussed a takeover of Westburne but no offer has been made.

Skye were up $1½ to $19⅝—Campbell Resources, off $1 to $19¼, plans a takeover bid.

Mitel advanced $2¼ to $27⅞ in active trading on higher earnings and plans for a share offering.

Vulcan Industrial Packaging improved $2½ to $33⅝ on plans for a three-for-one stock split.

Australia

Strong rises by Queensland Mines and Kathleen Investments helped the rise for the first time this week as traders squared positions on Thursday ahead of the holiday weekend. Queensland firmed 20 cents to $A13.30 and Kathleen put on 16 cents to $A9.20 after directors recommended against accepting a takeover offer by Pioneer Concrete.

The oil sector proved the only weak link. The Oil and Gas Index fell 6.6 to 988.5, while the Metals and Minerals Index firmed 3.7 to 617.1.

A 10-cents rise by the Bank of NSW to a year-high of $A3.45 helped the All Industrials counter firm 1.6 to a record 751.5.

In Minings, Santos were again a sellers' target, dropping 50 cents to $A20.50 and Magellan fell 20 cents to $A8.30. Central Pacific came back 10 cents to $A2, but its Rumdle partner Southern Pacific rose one cent to 91 cents.

Among Industrials, Ansett rose 10 cents to $A2.40 after announcing a steady $A12m profit for the latest six months. Huttons gained one cent to 84 cents on a turnover of 130,000 shares.

Tokyo

Prices rallide on Friday following bargain hunting after the setbacks in the previous three days, led by Steels, Heavy Electric Machines and Shipbuildings.

The market average rose 20.06 to 7,438.80 in active trading volume of 800m shares.

Synthetic Fibres, Oils, Insurances and Securities firms were higher, but Motors were lower after wide fluctuations. Electricals and Precisions eased.

The Exchange said it will shorten its morning trading session by one hour, opening at 10.00 hours local time next Thursday as railway strikes are scheduled that day.

Paris

Opinion Polls showing a decline in support for Valery Giscard d'Estaing in the Presidential election campaign depressed share prices in every sector on Thursday.

One of the Polls forecast a victory for Socialist candidate Francois Mitterrand, while the other indicated Giscard would win, but by only 1 per cent of votes cast.

Leading shares to fall included Cie Francaise De Raffinabe, down Frs 5 to130, Poclain, down Frs 2 to 190 and Cie Bancaire, down Frs 11 to 335.

Die Generale d'Electricite eased to Frs 399.9, despite higher 1980 net profits, and BSN-Gervais-Danone, which said 1980 group net profits would be 30 per cent up on 1979, lost Frs 6 to 1,025.

Foreign stocks, however, benefitted from Wall Street's gains on Wednesday and the dollar's strength, with all sectors higher.

Germany

Leading shares closed fractionally easier in very thin trading on Thursday.

Chemicals were barely changed. VW were down DM 1 at 163 and other Motors were marginally easier.

In Banks, Deutsche were off DM 2.4.

In otherwise barely changed Industrials, Linde shed DM 2.2 to 306.8, GHH dipped DM 3.50 to 198.5 while, among gainers Lufthansa Prefs added DM 2.2.

On the Domestic Bond Market Public Authority Loans were mixed, with gains of as much as DM 0.50 and losses of up to DM 0.30. The Bundesbank sold a net DM 2.3m worth of stock.

Mark Eurobonds were steady.

In Options trading turnover and prices rose with business activity centring on Calls for Bayer, Conti Gummi, Mannesmann and Thyssen.

Hong Kong

Higher in fairly quiet trading on Thursday, with the Hang Seng Index gaining 21.95 to 1,360.84.

Hutchison Whampoa gained 80 cents to $HK15.50 on a broker buy recommendation. There was some buying support for other shares ahead of the Easter break.

Jardine Matheson rose 20 cents to $HK21.30 on its results which were in line with expectations.

Johannesburg

Gold shares closed firmer on Thursday, as the bullion price held steady in Europe, but trading was very quiet.

Heavyweights gained up to 200 cents, while Medium- and Lightweight gains ranged between 5 and 25 cents.

NEW YORK

Stock	April 16	April 15	Stock	April 16	April 15
Cities Service	46¼	46⅝	Geosource	55¾	55¼
City Investg	27¼	27⅛	Gerber Prod	28⅞	28⅞
Clark Equipment	37	37	Getty Oil	65¼	65
Cleve Cliffs Iron	45½	44¾	Giddings Lewis	35½	35⅛
Clorox	12⅝	12½	Gillette	33½	33½
Cluett Peaby	13⅞	13⅞	Global Marine	53¾	52½
Coca Cola	36½	35¾	Goodrich (BF)	25½	25⅛
Coca Btl.N Y	9⅝	9⅝	Goodyear Tire	18⅜	18½
Colgate Palm	17½	17½	Gould	28⅞	29¼
Collins Aikman	11	10⅞	Grace	53¾	53½
Colt Inds	55⅝	56	Grainger (WW)	43¼	44

Indices

NEW YORK —DOW JONES

	Apr. 16	Apr. 15	Apr. 14	Apr. 13	Apr. 10	April 9	1981 High	1981 Low	Since Cmpil't'n High	Since Cmpil't'n Low
●Industr'ls	1005.58	1001.7	989.10	995.16	1000.2	996.85	1015.22 (25/3)	931.57 (15/2)	1051.70 (11/1/73)	41.22 (2/7/32)
H'me B'nds	60.94	60.84	60.79	61.09	61.42	61.42	65.78 (15/1)	60.79 (14/4)	—	—
Transport.	447.58	446.59	437.62	439.26	446.28	445.44	447.58 (16/4)	379.12 (20/2)	447.58 (16/4/81)	12.23 (8/7/32)
Utilities	107.16	106.32	105.54	106.14	107.53	106.15	117.81 (5/1)	105.54 (14/4)	163.32 (20/4/65)	10.5 (28/4/42)
Tradig Vol 000's	52,950	—	—	50,230	58,130	59,620	—	—	—	—

●Day's high 1012.79 low 995.23

Ind. div. yield %	Apr. 10	Apr. 3	Mar. 27	Year ago (approx
	5.54	5.50	5.57	6.30

STANDARD AND POORS

	Apr. 16	Apr. 15	Apr. 14	Apr. 13	Apr. 10	April 9	1981 High	1981 Low	Since Cmpil't'n High	Since Cmpil't'n Low
‡Indust'ls	—	152.58	151.80	150.78	152.27	152.55	157.02 (6/1)	143.73 (2/2)	160.96 (28/11/80)	3.52 (30/6/32)
Composite	—	134.78	134.03	135.15	134.51	134.67	138.12 (6/1)	126.58 (20/2)	140.52 (28/11/80)	4.40 (1/6/32)

	April 15	April 8	Apr. 1	Year ago (approx
Ind. div. yield %	4.56	4.55	4.47	5.74
Ind. P/E Ratio	10.59	9.46	9.64	7.14
Long Gov. Bond Yield	13.07	12.94	12.46	11.64

N.Y.S.E. ALL COMMON

Apr. 16	Apr. 15	Apr. 14	Apr. 13	1981 High	1981 Low
77.76	77.46	76.59	76.94	79.14 (6/1)	72.45 (20/2)

Rises and Falls	Apr. 16	Apr. 15	Apr. 14
Issues Traded	1,893	1,901	1,882
Rises	934	1,040	553
Falls	606	492	932
Unchanged	353	369	397
New Highs	—	124	65
New Lows	—	10	22

MONTREAL

	Apr. 16	Apr. 15	Apr. 14	Apr. 13	1981 High	1981 Low
Industrials	398.27	392.77	391.75	386.04	399.53 (10/4)	356.26 (20/2)
Combined	370.30	367.56	368.79	370.05	375.88 (2/4)	339.34 (20/2)
TORONTO Composite	2355.2	2339.07	2361.27	2356.5	2379.9 (10/4)	2151.4 (20/2)

NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS

Thursday	Stocks traded	Closing price	Change on day		Stocks traded	Closing price	Change on day
AM Airlines	1,049,700	17⅞	−⅛	Atlantic Rich.	515,900	47⅞	−½
IBM	747,600	59⅞	+¼	Phillips Pet.	460,900	42⅞	−¼
Cities Service	707,100	46⅞	−⅛	Bally Mfg.	459,700	24¾	+1
Warner-Lambert	607,300	23⅞	+⅛	Tandy	445,000	69⅛	+3¼
Texas Insts.	528,100	18	+¼	Pan Am. Air.	438,400	6	+⅛

هكذا من الاصل

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

Drop in overseas profits hits Goodyear

By Our Financial Staff

SAVAGE fall in earnings om overseas operations at odyear Tire and Rubber out-eighed a substantial improve-ent at home and left earnings r the first quarter with an 18 er cent fall at $43.1m, or cents a share. Overall sales lvanced from $2.02bn to .22bn.

Mr. Charles Pilliod, the chair-an, said that success for the st of 1981 depended on turns in the U.S. and Euro-an economies and continued ies growth overseas.

The company expects a finite upturn in domestic isiness in the second half of is year as cyclical factors take ect.

Foreign sales put on 5.5 per nt in the first quarter but reign earnings fell by 57 per nt to $43.1m. Domestic earn-gs, spurred by stronger mand in the replacement re market, tripled to $25m, th sales 13 per cent up at .26bn.

Swedish Match lighter deal

By William Dullforce in Stockholm

EDISH MATCH is taking er Van Poppel, a state-owned tch company manufacturing posable lighters. The price not disclosed but Swedish tch says the purchase will e it dominating market shares several European countries d an overall 30 per cent of European market.

Fendor, Swedish Match's own hter division, is the world's rth largest manufacturer of posable lighters with fac-ies outside Lyons in France d in the Philippines. It has been profitable in the past

Fall at Bank of America ends 14 years of growth

BY DAVID LASCELLES IN NEW YORK

BANK OF AMERICA, the largest bank in the U.S., broke 14 years of uninterrupted earnings growth by reporting a decline in profits for the first quarter of the year, largely because of the pressures of high interest rates.

Income before securities transactions was $108.5m or 74 cents a share, down 19 per cent on the $134.5m or 92 cents, earned in the first quarter of 1980.

The bank said that the profitability of its lending activities had declined because it was having to fund fixed rate consumer and mortgage loans, as well as longer term overseas assets, with short term funds, where interest rates have been at or near record levels. The move to interest-bearing current bank accounts had also increased interest expense.

As a result, the return on average total assets decreased from 0.52 per cent to 0.39 per cent. The bank's operating costs have also risen, because of inflation.

The bank's outgoing president, Mr. Tom Clausen, had warned that profits would be under pressure this quarter, so the actual results came as no surprise. The bank has already started trying to ease the position by increasing its adjustable rate loan portfolio, and by seeking longer term funding.

Total assets of the bank at the end of the quarter were $114.3bn, up 11 per cent.

The provision for possible loan losses at the end of the first quarter was $57.4m, an increase of 32.9 per cent on the figure a year earlier.

Mellon National Bank, however, achieved an increase in net income before securities transactions are taken into account. Before such transactions, income advanced from $26.1m to $29.8m, or from $1.33 a share to $1.52. But after securities transactions, net income showed a fall from $24.7m, or $1.26 a share, to $22.4m, or $1.14.

Yamaichi in talks on Kuwaiti venture

By Richard C. Hanson in Tokyo

YAMAICHI SECURITIES Company, one of Japan's big four securities houses, is discussing the establishment of a joint venture investment company with Kuwait Insurance Company (KIC).

The purpose of such a venture would be to channel oil money into Japanese securities. Kuwait is said to have been the most active of the Arab states in investing in Japanese equities over the past year. Such investment reached record proportions in the second half of 1980 and has continued at a steady pace this year.

If a final agreement is reached, the joint company to be formed will be the first to involve a Japanese and Arab partnership for the specific purpose of investing in Japan. Yamaichi would not comment on the details of its plans with KIC, which are said to be still in the preliminary stage.

According to reports, however, the two companies will establish the new venture in Luxembourg. KIC will contribute 90 per cent of the $10m equity with Yamaichi's subsidiary in London taking the rest. The name would be Kuwait-Japan Investment Fund.

Strike threat to PUK-Occidental chemicals deal

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN PARIS

WIDESPREAD opposition is developing in France to the proposed sale of Pechiney Ugine Kuhlmann's chemicals subsidiary to Occidental Petroleum of the U.S.

Threats of strike action against such a move have been delivered by all the principal unions in the company, along with the Socialist Party. Several senior figures in the French chemicals industry are also said to be in favour of a "French solution" to the company's problems.

The row comes in the midst of the Presidential election campaign, when public opinion is particularly sensitive to issues of foreign control over the country's main industrial sectors. But so far the authorities have made no comment on the negotiations with Occidental, although they will clearly have to be consulted before the deal goes through.

PUK's chemicals activities constitute the third largest group in the French industry after Rhône-Poulenc and CDF Chimie, the subsidiary of the nationalised coal concern, Charbonnages de France.

The company employs almost 20,000 workers and ran up sales of FFr 4.8bn last year, about a quarter of PUK's total. But its net losses came to FFr 430m ($87.8m) making a big dent in the parent group's net profits of FFr 607m. These fell from FFr 991m in 1979.

Although PUK has spent heavily on the chemicals division in recent years it has apparently been hampered by its limited size compared with its main European competitors. Last year it was hit particularly hard by the crisis in the textiles industry, which reduced demand for its inks and colorants, as well as the general downturn in the chemicals industry in Europe.

It is attractive to Occidental, however, for its activities in PVC and chloride production, where an acquisition would allow the U.S. group to consolidate its worldwide position.

BSN sees upturn of 30% for 1980

By Terry Dodsworth in Paris

BSN-GERVAIS DANONE, the fast-expanding French food processing group, is forecasting a consolidated profits increase for 1980 of at least 30 per cent from the FFr 247m ($50.4m) achieved in 1979.

This improvement, the group says, will be achieved with a growth in sales of around 19 per cent to FFr 18.2bn. Net cash flow will be about FFr 1.3bn. The dividend will be increased from FFr 35 to FFr 40 a share.

BSN, which last year continued to move away from glass manufacturing and to build up its food interests, says that the profits realised on the sale of its Flachglas-Dahlbusch subsidiary in West Germany has not been included in these results. The divestment of these activities to the British Pilkington group was followed this year by a similar sale of its glass making interests in the Netherlands and Belgium to Asahi Glass of Japan.

The Flachglass deal was worth about FFr 1bn ($200m), while the sale to Asahi will have brought in another $46m. BSN has now completed its withdrawal from the flat glass industry outside France.

The funds earned from these sales have since ben effectively put aside for strategic use in acquisitions intended to strengthen the company's position in the food sector, where it has become the industry leader in France.

Although BSN has attracted some criticism in France for opening the door for another Japanese company to enter Europe, the French company has itself been developing its interests in Japan.

Braniff net loss deepens despite operating gain

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

BRANIFF INTERNATIONAL, the financially troubled Dallas-based airline whose 1980 accounts were qualified by the auditors at the end of last week, reported a net loss of $24.7m, or $1.23 a share, against a loss of $22m a year ago, for its first quarter. Revenues dipped from $372.1m to $325.2m.

However, the airline achieved an operating profit in the first quarter of $454,000, compared with an operating loss of $22.5m for the 1980 quarter.

For the whole of last year, Braniff recorded incurred a loss of $128.5m, although operating revenues were higher at $1.45bn for the year.

In 1980, the airline recorded net capital gains of $79m from the sale of equipment. It has also been withdrawing rapidly from some of its overseas routes, reflected in a 20 per cent fall in passenger miles in 1980.

At the beginning of this year, Braniff negotiated a respite on its debts to its major creditors, who agreed to defer all payments, both principal and interest, until July 1. In January, tentative discussions on a merger with Eastern Air Lines broke down.

International Harvester omits payout

By Our Financial Staff

THE BOARD of International Harvester, the Chicago-based manufacturer of trucks, farm equipment and heavy industrial machinery, has decided to omit the quarterly dividend on the common stock for the second time. The last quarterly payment on common stock was of 30 cents a share in January this year, a reduction from the 62½ cents paid throughout 1980.

Last year Harvester turned in a deficit of $397.3m and warned of a further loss ahead for this year's first quarter. Earlier this month it announced a debt reconstruction agreement with its major creditors, although this was quickly followed by the news that First National Bank of Commerce of New Orleans had filed a suit for repayment of a $3.5m debt.

About 40 per cent of Harvester's earnings come from overseas and the currency translation losses have played a significant role in the company's financial problems. The decision to omit the first quarterly dividend of this year was taken after the group turned in a loss of $96.3m for the opening three months. The company's short-term debt was replaced in March by a new three-year credit on undisclosed terms.

Pioneer mining bid rejected

By Our Financial Staff

A A$182m (U.S.$211m) bid by Pioneer Concrete Services for shares not already owned in two Australian uranium mining companies has been rejected as inadequate by directors of the mine groups.

A valuation by BT Australia, the merchant bank, of the shares of Kathleen Investments set a price of A$11, compared with Pioneer's offer of A$8.80, or four of its own shares. BT Australia values Queensland Mines shares at A$12.87, compared with the A$12.10 offered by Pioneer, with the alternative of 11 of its own shares for every two of Queensland Mines.

Pioneer already owns 59 per cent of Kathleen Investments, while Kathleen owns 50 per cent of Queensland Mines.

Improvement in income at Italy's biggest bank

BY JAMES BUXTON IN ROME

BANCA NAZIONALE del Lavoro, Italy's biggest bank, has announced a 23 per cent increase in profits for 1980, with a rise to L16bn ($14.97m) from L12.8bn. The bank's revenue was up 24.7 per cent at L35,274bn.

The bank is 85 per cent owned by the Treasury with the remaining 15 per cent of the equity held by a variety of Government-owned institutions. But for the first time Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) is to hold an official shareholders meeting to approve the 1980 accounts.

This has given rise to speculation that BNL may be preparing to issue shares to the public which it has frequently stated is its intention. A plan is currently being put into effect whereby BNL's capital is to be raised from the present L60bn to L800bn by means of contributions by the shareholders.

Dutch insurers increase earnings and dividends

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

NATIONALE-NEDERLANDEN and Amev, two leading Dutch insurance groups, have announced higher profits for 1980 and proposals for increased dividends for the year.

Net profit at Nationale-Nederlanden, the largest Dutch insurance group, gained 18 per cent to Fl 356m ($149.5m) last year, with the gain coming in similar proportion from the life and non-life side.

Dividends per shares have been increased from Fl 5.77 to Fl 6.75. Total revenue of the group put on 16 per cent to Fl 8bn.

NN, which has been expanding strongly overseas in recent years, disclosed that in 1980 the international contribution to earnings rose to 50 per cent, compared with 45 per cent in the previous year.

Life assurance accounted for Fl 249.5m of group profit, compared with Fl 209.2m in the previous year. Non-life results were 35 per cent higher at Fl 170.7m. A decline in earning from marine and aviation insurance business was "amply compensated" for by improved results in other classes particularly in motor insurance and accident and sickness sectors, said the board.

However, results from professional re-insurance decreased from nearly Fl 6.3m to Fl 1m.

Acquisitions, high interest rates and a fall in the relative number of claims in its non-life division lay behind the improvement at Amev, where net profit rose 20 per cent to Fl 138.6m ($58m) on turnover which was 34 per cen higher at Fl 3.26bn ($1.36bn).

Amev proposes paying a final cash dividend of Fl 4.20 taking the total payment to Fl 6.80 per share from Fl 6.60 the year before.

OMMODITIES/REVIEW OF THE WEEK

Surprise U.S. demand rise boosts cocoa

BY OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

E NEWS that U.S. cocoa in grindings were 44 per cent her in the first quarter of s year than in the correspond- period last year took Lon- cocoa traders by surprise on ursday. Before the figure s announced, by the U.S. ocolate and confectionery ociation, traders were pre-ting a rise of beween 15 and per cent.

Futures values, which had eady been lifted somewhat by - weekend booksquaring, ged higher in response with July position closing at 7.5 a tonne, up £21 on the y and £33 on the week.

Market analysts said the in-ase in U.S. bean usage, was bably affected by a switch away from imported cocoa products back to raw beans. But they did not rule out a genuine increase in retail sales following recent aggressive advertising by confectionery manufacturers. The relatively lower price levels — currently near to four-year lows — may also have encouraged demand, they said.

In contrast world sugar values continued their recent decline. On the London futures market the August position slipped to a new 13-month low of £192.325 a tonne, down £17.525 on the week.

This fall, which reflects uncertainty about the supply/demand balance which was earlier assumed to be bullish, has caused further embarrassment to the EEC Commission, forcing it to increase export subsidies to encourage the export of surplus EEC sugar.

Until recently exports had been earning money for the community in the form of export levies because the world price was above the fixed EEC level. The Commission's critics have suggested that if it had set more modest levies it might not now be faced with paying subsidies on the estimated 1m tonnes of sugar which remain to be disposed of.

At this week's regular tender in Brussels export licences were granted on 68,250 tonnes of white sugar compared with 71,750 tonnes last week. The maximum xport subsidy was set at 14.139 European currency units against 11.734 ECUs a week earlier.

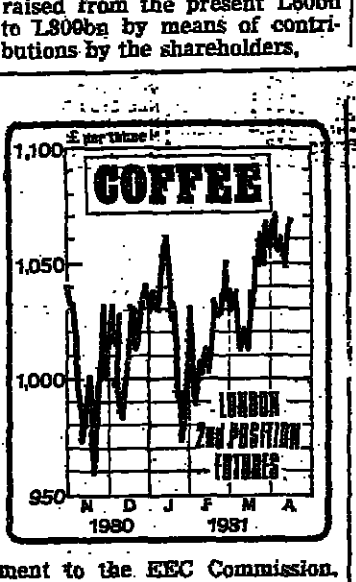
London's newest commodity market, gas oil futures, continued to exceed expectations in its second week of trading. Volume again averaged well above the 500 lots (100 tonnes each) a day which had been forecast before the market opened, though it tended to tail off ahead of the long weekend.

Copper prices reversed an early decline following news that copper workers in Chile planned to strike over a wage dispute. Also encouraging the rise was a price rise announced by Asarco, the U.S. copper producer.

By the end of the week cash copper wirebars were quoted £4.75 higher on balance at £830.5 a tonne. This followed a sharp fall on Monday, triggered by the announcement of an unexpected rise in London Metal Exchange warehouse stocks, which had pushed the price down to £817.5 a tonne.

Lead and zinc prices followed a similar pattern of falling initially then rallying. Cash lead ended the week £1.75 up at £344.25 a tonne while cash zinc gained £6.25 on balance to £379.25 a tonne.

Tin defied the trend in other metals, however, with the cash standard price registering a £247.5 decline to £6,082.5 a tonne. This reflected continuing disappointment at the failure of producers and consumers to agree on proposals for a new International Tin Agreement. Talks toward this end at the International Tin Council in London broke up in disarray at the end of last week



EEKLY PRICE CHANGES

	Latest prices per tonne unless stated	Ch'nge on week	Year ago	1981 High	1981 Low
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£810/815	£810/815	£750/70
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$1,880/1,910	$1590/1530	$1580/1410
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$3410/3480	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£931	£856	£755
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£956.5	£877.25	£777.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£989.5	£848	£748.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£989.5	£865	£765.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$512.5	$601	$463.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£440	£351.5	£275.75
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£431.5	£357.5	£285.25
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£3,477	£3,379.5	£3,156
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	288/515c	290/310c	270/290c
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£189/193	£213.50	£202
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£264.6	£243.40	£185.60
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$400/418	$415/430	$355/365
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	655.30p	671.20p	506.50p
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	678.30p	695.70p	581.40p
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£7,687.5	£8,425	£5,700
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£7,665	£6,407.5	£5,865.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$140.73	$149.08	$140.55
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$142/148	$151/155	$143/146
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£317	£381.5	£306.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£324.5	£390.75	£318.25
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$825	$875	$835
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£89.95	£102.80	£98.85
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	t.	£125.5	£119.75
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	‡	£112.5	£103.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£4,175	£4,500	£3,800
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$2,525	$2,025	$2,000
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$1,750	$1,650	$1,425
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$695	$640	$525
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$438	$460	$400
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$615	$645	$560
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$430	$430	$350
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$256	$340	$288
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£1,321	£1,062	£915
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£1,890.5	£976.5	£880.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£1,686.5	£1,070.5	£988.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	90.70c	101.15c	88.15c
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£715	£650	£640
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£226	£221	£219
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	65.5p	59.25p	51.5p
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£204	£210	£197
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$885	$780	$780
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£240	£315	£190
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£302	£215	£207
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	136p	‡	‡
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	60p		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	295p kilo	325p kilo	284p kilo

(g) Madagascar. (y) April/May. (x) March/April. (z) June. * Nominal.

BASE METALS

COPPER — Firmer in morning only trading on the London Metal Exchange, reflecting pre-holiday book squaring. Forward metal opened higher at £850 and held around that level before easing to £847 on the kerb. However, a late rally prompted a recovery to £850 at the close. Turnover: 11,550 tonnes.

COPPER	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Wirebars				
Cash	830-1	+4.75	—	+7.75
3 months	849-50	+4.25	—	+8.75
Settlem't	831	+5	—	......
Cathodes				
Cash	823-.5	+5.75	—	+6.25
3 months	837.5-8	-2.25	—	+8
Settlem'	823.5	+5.5		......
S. Prod	—		*83.5-87	......

Amalgamated Metal Trading reported that in the morning three months wirebars traded at £851, 51.5, 51, 50, 50.5, 50. Cathodes: three months £838, 37.5. Kerb: Wirebars, three months £850, 49.5, 49, 48, 47.

TIN—Easier owing to the decline at Penang and further offerings of cash metal. Three months fell back to close the kerb at £6,150 while the contango widened to £70 at one point. Turnover: 890 tonnes.

TIN	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
High Grade	£	£	£	£
Cash	6080-5	-82.5	—	-57.5
3 months	6140-5	-40	—	-35
Settlem't	6085	-85	—	......
Standard				
Cash	6080-5	-82.5	—	-57.5
3 months	6140-5	-40	—	-35
Settlem't	6085	-85	—	......
Straits E.	‡$30.15	-0.26	—	......
New York	—	......		

Morning: Standard cash £6,080, three months £6,170, 60, 40, 50, 60, 65, 55, 50, 45, 40. Kerb: Standard three months £6,145, 50.

LEAD — Little changed with forward metal holding steady prior to closing the kerb at £350.5 reflecting the sharp rise in zinc. Turnover: 7,100 tonnes.

LEAD	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Cash	344-.5	+.75	—	-.75
3 months	350-.5	......	—	-1.5
S'ment	344.5	-.5	—	......
U.S. Spot	—	......	*36-8	......

Morning: Cash £344.5, 45, 44.5, three months £351, 50, 50.5, 51, 50.5. Kerb: Three months £350.

ZINC — Sharply higher following speculation of possible U.S. producer price increases of 2 cents a pound. The rumours of price rises encouraged heavy speculative buying and covering of short positions and saw forward metal move up from £380 on the early pre-market to the morning's high of £390.5 at the close of the kerb. Turnover: 3,650 tonnes.

ZINC	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unoffic'l	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Cash	379-.5	+10.5	—	+10.2
3 months	390-.5	+10.7	—	+10
S'ment	379.5	+10.5	—	......
Primw'ts	—	......	*43.5	......

Morning: Cash £379, three months £383.5, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89, 89.5, 90, 90.5, 90. Kerb: Three months £390, 90.5.

ALUMINIUM — Gained ground with forward metal edging ahead from £649 to close the kerb at £654.5. Turnover: 8,925 tonnes.

Alumin'm	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unoffic'l	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Spot	636-7	+3.75	—	+4
3 months	653-4	+5.25	—	+4

Morning: Three months £650, 51, 51.5, 52, 53. Kerb: Three months £655.

NICKEL — Easier owing to renewed offerings of cash metal which widened the contango to around £50 and left three months at £2,940 on the kerb. Turnover: 474 tonnes.

NICKEL	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unoffici'l	+ or —
Spot	2890-5	+20	—	-22.5
3 months	2940-5	+25	—	-7

Morning: Three months £2,950, 40. Kerb: Three months £2,940.

* Cents per pound. ‡ M$ per kilo. † On previous unofficial close.

SILVER

Silver was fixed 3.9p an ounce lower for spot delivery in the London bullion market on Thursday at 515.55p. U.S. equivalents of the fixing levels were: spot $11.11, down 11c; three-month $11.544, down 10.8c; six-month $12.026, down 9.3c; and 12-month $12.914, down 8.4c. The metal opened at 516-525p ($11.10-11.30) and closed at 515-524p ($11.10-11.30).

SILVER per troy oz.	Bullion fixing price	+ or —	L.M.E. p.m. Unoffic'l	+ or —
Spot	515.55p	-3.9	514.5p	-0.5
3 months	530.50p	-5.45	530.5p	......
6 months	547.00p	-5.2	—	......
12months	579.80p	-5.2	—	......

LME — Turnover 50 (69) lots of 10,000 ozs. Morning: three months 535, 31, 29, 30. Kerb: three months 530, 31.

COCOA

Futures opened £10 higher and remained steady throughout an active day to close £20 up. Trade and Commission House buying easily absorbed Bahia and Ivory Coast new crop sales during the morning. Speculative interest was later encouraged by news of increased first-quarter grindings figures in the Netherlands and the U.S., the latter showing an increase of 44 per cent, reports Gill and Duffus.

Sales: 5,467 (2,256) lots of 10 tonnes.

COCOA	Yes'rday's Close	+ or —	Business Done
May	970-973	+19.0	979-960
July	997-998	+21.0	1003-985
Sept.	1015-1016	+20.0	1016-1005
Dec.	1034-1035	+20.0	1035-1023
March	1055-1056	+22.0	1056-1042
May	1068-1070	+18.5	1066-1060
July	1080-1082	+13.5	—

ICCO Futures—Daily price for April 15: 97.66 (93.88); five-day average 94.87 (94.13).

COFFEE

A quietly steady session saw opening losses erased in mixed activity, reports Drexel Burnham. An improved volume consisted mainly of switching operations in a narrow range. No fresh features emerged and values closed around mid-range in most positions.

COFFEE	Yesterday's Close £ per tonne	+ or —	Business Done
May	1061-63	-2.0	1065-59
July	1068-70	+3.5	1070-60
Sept.	1065-69	+3.6	1069-61
Nov	1064-65	+3.5	1064-58
Jan	1061-62	+0.5	1058-57
March	1050-58	-3.5	1059-55
May	1055-65	+3.5	—

Sales: 1,639 (974) lots of 5 tonnes.

ICO Indicator prices for April 15: (U.S. cents per pound): Other Mild Arabicas 127.33 (126.00); Robustas ICA 1976 111.50 (same); ICA 1968 111.75 (same). Unwashed Arabicas unquoted. Comp. daily ICA 1968 unquoted.

GAS AND OIL FUTURES

In line with the physical market, futures were very quiet with a general unwillingness to take new positions in advance of a long weekend, reports Premier man.

Month	Yesterd'ys close $ U.S. per tonne	+ or —	Business Done
June	289.50	-1.25	290.50-89.50
July	294.75	—	295.50-94.00
August	300.75	+0.25	301.50-00.50
September	306.75	—	307.50-07.00
October	313.00	—	315.75-13.00
November	319.50	+0.75	320.00-19.75
December	325.00	+1.00	325.00-24.50
January	330.00	+2.00	330.00-28.00
February	334.50	+5.50	—

Turnover: 165 (498) lots of 100 tonnes each.

COTTON

COTTON—Liverpool. Spot and shipment sales on Thursday amounted to 66 tonnes, bringing the total for the week to 1,084 tonnes, compared with 810 tonnes in the previous week, reports F. W. Tattersalls.

GRAINS

Old crop wheat opened 20p lower. Heavy selling pressure depressed values to close 145-135p lower. May barley also saw considerable selling pressure and closed 80p down. New crops saw a fairly quiet day, values easing on hedge selling pressure to close. 20-35p down on wheat and 10-20p down on barley, ACLI reports.

Mnth	WHEAT Yesterd'ys close	+ or —	BARLEY Yesterday's close	+ or —
May	116.05	-1.45	99.00	-0.80
July	118.15	-1.35	—	......
Sep	101.95	-0.20	95.55	-0.15
Nov	105.45	-0.28	99.30	-0.10
Jan	109.35	-0.35	102.75	-0.15
Mar	113.10	-0.30	106.30	-0.28

Business done—Wheat: May 117.20-115.85, July 119.25-117.90, Sept. 102.15-101.90, Nov. 105.65-105.25, Jan. 109.35 one trade, March 113.25 one trade. Sales: 445 lots of 100 tonnes. Barley: May 99.80-98.70, Sept. 95.70-95.55, Nov. 99.35-99.30, Jan. 102.75 one trade, March no trades. Sales: 197 lots of 100 tonnes.

HGCA—Locational ex-farm spot prices. Other milling wheat: S. East 116.00. Feed barley: S. East 99.50; S. West 99.10; W. Midlands 99.00, N. West 99.60. The UK Monetary Coefficient for the week beginning Monday, April 27 (based on HGCA calculations using two days exchange rates) is expected to remain unchanged.

LONDON GRAINS—Wheat: U.S. Dark Northern Spring No. 2 14 per cent, May 106.50, June 105.75 transhipment East Coast; U.S. Hard Winter 13½ per cent, May 106.50, June 105.75 transhipment East Coast. Maize: French April 125.50 transhipment East Coast: South African Yellow April-May 85.50. Rest unquoted.

RUBBER

The London physical market opened easier, with small covering orders at lower levels closing quiet. Lewis and Peat reported an fob May price for No. 1 RSS in Kuala Lumpur of 261.5 (264.5) cents a kg and SMR at 239.5 (242.0).

No 1. R.S.S.	Yest'r'ys close	Previous close	Business Done
May	55.60-55.90	55.90-54.60	—
June	54.70-58.00	56.00-56.00	—
Jly-Sept	56.98-57.06	57.80-57.88	57.30-56.70
Oct-Dec	60.20-60.50	60.80-60.90	60.50-59.90
Jan-Mar	63.10-63.20	63.70-63.50	63.70-62.80
Apl-Jne.	65.60-66.00	66.50-66.60	65.90-65.70
Jly-Sept	68.80-68.10	69.20-69.60	68.80-68.50
Oct-Dec	71.50-71.60	72.20-72.30	71.70-71.40
Jan-Mar	74.20-74.80	75.00-75.20	—

Sales: 355 (232) at 15 tonnes, nil (same) at five tonnes: Physical closing prices (buyer) were: Spot 52.50p (52.75p), May 55.75p (56.00p), June 56.50p (same).

SOYABEAN MEAL

The market opened with gains of £1 on speculative buying, reports T. G. Roddick. Continuing reports of an imminent removal of the USSR embargo gave prices a firm tone and the market closed with gains of £1-£2.

	Yesterdys Close £ per tonne	+ or —	Business Done
April	134.00-37.0	+2.50	—
June	131.50-33.0	+1.10	132.00-131.80
August	134.80-35.0	+1.50	135.00-135.40
October	137.60-37.0	+2.15	138.00-138.50
December	139.00-40.0	+2.25	139.00
February	140.50-42.5	+2.75	—
April	141.50-44.5	+2.75	—

Sales: 61 (43) lots of 100 tonnes.

WOOL FUTURES

SYDNEY GREASY WOOL—Close (in order: buyer, seller, business). Australian cents per kilo. May 494.7, 496.0, 496.0-494.0; July 493.0, 494.0, 494.5-492.0; Oct. 487.0, 489.0, 489.0-487.0; Dec. 491.3, 492.5, 493.0-491.0; March 500.0, 502.0, 500.0; May 503.0, 505.0, 503.0; July 507.0, 509.0, 507.1-507.0; Oct. 508.0, 509.0, nil. Sales: 207.

LONDON NEW ZEALAND CROSSBREDS—Close (in order: buyer, seller, business). New Zealand cents per kilo.: May 358, 360, 356; Aug. 369, 372, 370-367; Oct. 370, 373, 370; Dec. 377, 380, 380-377; Jan. 379, 382, 384-380; March 381, 385, 384-383; May 389, 393, 391-388; Aug. 395, 399, 398-395; Oct. 396, 399, 399-397. Sales: 62.

AMERICAN MARKETS

NEW YORK, April 16.

PRECIOUS METALS advanced sharply on short-covering and new buying as the Soviet Press renewed its attacks on Solidarity. Copper closed higher on trade and commission-house support. The live stock complex finished mostly higher as record supplies and marketings were matched by an improved demand. Cocoa rallied on a surprisingly high increase of 44 per cent in U.S. grindings. Coffee traded mostly mixed with light dealer buying in near-by months. Sugar continued its slide on fears of larger Cuban offerings. Heating Oil was virtually unchanged in light trading as the market is looking for direction between weak fundamentals and strong technical indications. Cotton traded mostly mixed as nearby futures rallied ahead of the weekly sales report. Grains and soyabeans rallied late in the day as traders evened up before the long holiday weekend, reports Heinold Commodities.

††Cocoa — May 2010 (2000), July 2080 (2070), Sept. 2131, Dec. 2[illegible], March 2238, May 2283, July 2325, Sept. 2368. Sales: 2,540.

Coffee—"C" Contract: May 126[illegible]-126.40 (126.36), July 125.25-12[illegible] (125.27), Sept. 124.50-124.70, [illegible] 121.00-121.25, March 118.25-118.50, [illegible] 119.00-119.25, July 117.50-119.00. S[illegible] 118.50-119.00. Sales: 1,680.

Copper — April 80.80 (80.40), [illegible] 81.20-81.50 (81.00). June 82.55, [illegible] 83.75-84.00, Sept. 86.20-86.50, [illegible] 89.60-89.75, Jan. 90.85, March 93[illegible], May 95.10, July 97.20, Sept. 99[illegible], Dec. 102.40, Jan. 103.45. Sales: 4,[illegible]

Cotton — No. 2: May 86.80-8[illegible] (87.22), July 87.80-88.00 (88.21), [illegible] 85.10, Dec. 82.50-82.80, March 83[illegible] 84.00, May 84.50-85.00, July 85.00-85[illegible] Oct. 84.00-85.50. Sales: 6,500.

*Gold — April 488.0 (473.9), [illegible] 489.5 (476.4), June 494.0-497.0, Aug[illegible] 507.0-509.5, Oct. 521.0-522.0, [illegible] 534.0-537.0, Feb. 546.5, April 55[illegible], June 571.4, August 584.5, Oct. 59[illegible], Dec. 611.1, Feb. 624.6. Sales: 35,[illegible]

Heating Oil (cents per U.S. gallon) May 0.9575 (0.9592), June 0.9[illegible] (0.9650), July 0.9746, August 0.9[illegible], Sept. 1.0025, Oct. 1.0230, Nov. 1.0[illegible], Dec. 1.0600, Jan. 1.0800, Feb. 1.10[illegible], March 1.1175, April 1.1225, May 1.1[illegible]. Total sales, 1104 lots.

Orange Juice — May 139.00-13[illegible] (138.20); July 142.50-143.00 (141.[illegible]), Sept. 143.00, Nov. 144.35-144.40, J[illegible] 143.90, March 144.40, May 145.[illegible] 145.55, July 145.80-146.25, Sept. 146.[illegible] 147.25. Sales: 1,200.

*Platinum—April 473.0 (450.8), M[illegible] nil (nil), June nil, July 483.3, O[illegible] 501.3, Jan. 520.3, April 538.8. Sales: 1,119.

Potatoes (round whites) — Nov 74.2-75.5 (75.0), Feb. 83.5 (84.1), Ma[illegible]

87.0 April 101.0-101.8. Sales: 420.

*Silver — April 1142.0 (1140.0), May 1143.0-1147.0 (1145.0), June 1116.00, July 1174.0-1178.0, Sept. 1208.5, Dec. [illegible]

INDICES

FINANCIAL TIMES

April 16	April 15	Month ago	Year ago
261.22	260.96	259.54	284.67

(Base: July 1, 1952=100).

MOODY'S

April 16	April 15	Month ago	Year ago
1112.2	1114.1	1141.8	1131.5

(December 31, 1931=100)

DOW JONES

Dow Jones	April 16	April 15	Month ago	Year ago
Spot	408.12	408.27	422.49	480.12
Fut's	418.15	418.23	431.24	[illegible]

(Average 1924-25-26=100)

REUTERS

April 16	April 15	M'nth ago	Year ago
1692.0	1691.9	1702.7	1718.2

(Base: September 18, 1931=100)

SUGAR

LONDON DAILY PRICE—Raw sugar £190.00 (£198.00) a tonne cif April-May-June shipments. White sugar daily price £206.00 (£211.00).

Sell-at-best orders depressed prices £4 below overnight levels but all the losses were recovered later as short covering developed in front of the Easter holiday, reports C. Czarnikow.

Sales: 7,373 (—) lots of 50 tonnes.

Tate and Lyle ex-refinery price for granulated basis white sugar was £342.6 (same) a tonne for home trade and £264.0 (£272.50) for export.

International Sugar Agreement (U.S. cents per pound) fob and stowed Caribbean port. Prices for April 15: Daily price 16.87 (17.95); 15-day average 19.77 (20.14).

No. 4 Con-tract	Yest'rdy's Close	Previous Close	Business Done
	£ per tonne		
May	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aug	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oct	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Jan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
March	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
May	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aug	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

LONDON POTATO FUTURES — Profit-taking before the long weekend raised prices a little over the previous night's levels. Markets were erratic but traded within a narrow range again, reports Coley and Harper. Closing prices: Nov. 56.50, +0.5 (high 56.50, low 56.20); Feb. 63.20, — (high 63.50, low 63.00); April 70.50, +0.3 (high 70.70, low 70.50). Turnover: 131 (113) lots of 40 tonnes.

EUROPEAN OPTIONS EXCHANGE

TOTAL VOLUME IN CONTRACTS 5903

A=Asked B=Bid C=Call P=Put

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

(Total contracts 529)

BANKS, DISCOUNT (625)

BREWERIES (317)

COMMERCIAL (7,981)

A—B

C—D

E—F

G—H

Stock Exchange dealings

The list below, restricted mainly to equities to conserve space, has been taken with consent from last Thursday's Stock Exchange Official List and should not be reproduced without permission. It shows prices at which business was done in the 24 hours up to 3.30 pm on Thursday and settled through the Stock Exchange's Talisman checking system.

The prices are not in order of execution, but in ascending order which denotes the day's highest and lowest dealing price.

For those shares in which no business was recorded in Thursday's Official List, the latest recorded business done during the previous four business days is given with relevant dates appended. The number of bargains done on Thursday in each section is shown against the respective sub-headings. Unless otherwise indicated the shares are 25p fully-paid.

‡ Bargains at special prices. Δ Bargains done with a non-member or executed in overseas market. ⊕ Bargains done previous day. $A—$Australian: $B—$Bahamian; $C—$Canadian; $HK—$Hong Kong; $J—$Jamaican; $Ma—$Malayan; $Me—$Mexican; $NZ—$New Zealand; $S—$Singapore; $US—$United States; $WI—$West Indian.

Gibbs and Dandy (10p) 67 (14/4). Non-Vtg. A (10p) 22 (13/4)
Gleves Grp. 53
Gill and Duffus Grp. 200 2 5 7 8
Glanfield Lawrence 37. 8 18
Glasgow Pavilion (10p) 33 (14/4)
Glass Glover Grp. (5p) 85 6 (14/4)
Glaxo Hldgs. (50p) 327 30 2 4 6
Gleeson (M. J.) (Contractors) (10p) 88 90
Glossop (W. and J.) 46 (13/4)
Glynwed 102½ 3 4 ½
Gnome Photographic Prod. (10p) 53 (13/4)
Goldberg (A.) and Sons 68
Gome Hldgs. 35½

Jenks & Cattell 75 (10/4)
Jentique (Hldgs.) 18 (13/4)
Jerome (S.) Sons (Hldgs.) 116 8 20
Jessups (Hldgs.) 30
Johnson Barnes (12½p) 6 (14/4)
Johnson & Firth Brown 25 6 7
Johnson Grp. Cleaners 233 4 5 6 7
Johnson Matthey 257 8 9 60 1
Jones (A. A.) Shipman 60
Jones (Edward) Grp. (10p) 28½
Jones (Ernest) (Jewellers) (10p) 100 (13/4)
Jones Stroud (Hldgs.) 60
Jourdan (Thomas) (10p) 86 7 8

Kaiser Aluminium and Chemical Corp.

I—J—K

Int. Paint 99 (14/4)
Int. Tel & Tel Corp Com (US$1) $33½ (13/4)
Int. Thomson Org. 785 92
Int. Timber Corp 97
Inveresk Gp. (50p) 33. (50p) elected form 33 (14/4)
Isle of Man Enterprises (20p) 48 (10/4)

J. B. Hldgs. (10p) 74 5 6
Jacks (William) 18
Jackson (J. & H. B.) (5p) 67 ½ 8 ½
Jacksons Bourne End 140 (10/4)
James (Maurice) Ind. (10p) 15½ 6
Jamesons Chocolate (10p) 48 9 (10/4)
Jarvis (J.) 198 200

L—M

Menzies (John) (Hldgs.) 335 40
Metal Box (£1) 204 6 7 8 9 10
Metal Closures Grp. 102 3 4
Metalrax (Hldgs.) (5p) 47 50 (14/4)
Mettoy 20 1 ½ 2
Meyer (Montague L.) 85½ 6 7 8 9
Midland Inds. (5p) 73 4 5
Milbury 72 (13/4)
Miller (F.) (Textiles) (10p) 82 4
Miller (Stanley) Hldgs. (10p) 13½
Milletts Leisure Shops (20p) 170 (14/4)
Mining Supplies (10p) p168 70
Mitchell Cotts Grp. 46 ½ 7
Mitchell Somers (10p) 34
Mitel Cpn. NPV £9.85 £9.95

Share stakes

Dixons Photographic—E. Shenton, director, sold on April 6 70,000 shares.

Westminster Property Group—Orphean has disposed of 875,000 shares, reducing holding to 1.9m (10.97 per cent).

J. Hepworth & Son—British Land acquired 250,000 shares making holding 2.43m.

Grovebell Group—M. C. Gould, director, has disposed of 50,000 shares leaving holding nil. Beneficial ownership is derived through Jestrell.

Carron Co. (Hldgs.)—D. R. A. Hilton, director, has sold 60,687 shares.

Suter Electrical—Mr. J. D. Abell sold 100,000 ordinary shares at 61p per share on April 9.

Avana Group—Northern Foods, following the offer for Robertson Foods becoming unconditional, now has an interest in a further 397,500 shares.

Chloride Group—Sir Michael Edwardes, director, purchased 20,000 ordinary at 34p.

Eurotherm International—Mr. P. T. Bellamy, director, sold 70,000 ordinary and now holds 79,510 ordinary (0.70 per cent). Mr. M. J. Somerville, director, sold 10,000 ordinary and now holds 280,000 ordinary (2.45 per cent). Mr. G. F. Turnbull, director, sold 5,000 ordinary and now holds 97,248 ordinary. Mr. J. M. Shackleton, director, sold 10,000 ordinary and now holds 178,678 ordinary (1.56 per cent). Mr. T. L. Martin, director, sold 80,000 ordinary and now holds 812,707 ordinary (7.12 per cent).

Wagon Industrial Hldgs.—I. F. Finlator, director, has sold 300,000 shares at 75p each, from his personal holding and family trust.

M. and G. Second Duel Trust—Merchant Navy Officers Pension Fund Trustees is now the beneficial owner of 2.05m capital shares.

BASE LENDING RATES

A.B.N. Bank	12 %	■ Guinness Mahon	12 %
Allied Irish Bk.	12 %	■ Hambros Bank	12 %
American Express Bk.	12 %	Heritable & Gen. Trust	12 %
Amro Bank	12 %	■ Hill Samuel	§12 %
Henry Ansbacher	12 %	C. Hoare & Co.	†12 %
AP Bank Ltd.	12 %	Hongkong & Shanghai	12 %
■ Arbuthnot Latham	12 %	Keyser Ullmann	12 %
Associates Cap. Corp.	12 %	Knowsley & Co. Ltd.	14 %
Banco de Bilbao	12 %	Langris Trust Ltd.	13 %
BCCI	12 %	Lloyds Bank	12 %
Bank of Cyprus	12 %	Mallinhall Limited	12 %
Bank of N.S.W.	12 %	Edward Manson & Co.	13 %
Banque Belge Ltd.	12 %	Midland Bank	12 %
Banque du Rhone et de la Tamise S.A.	12½ %	■ Samuel Montagu	12 %
Barclays Bank	12 %	■ Morgan Grenfell	12 %
Beneficial Trust Ltd.	13 %	National Westminster	12 %
Bremar Holdings Ltd.	13 %	Norwich General Trust	12 %
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	12 %	P. S. Refson & Co.	12 %
■ Brown Shipley	12½ %	Ryl. Bk. Canada (Ldn.)	12 %
Canada Perm't Trust	13 %	Slavenburg's Bank	12 %
Cayzer Ltd.	12 %	E. S. Schwab	13 %
Cedar Holdings	12 %	Standard Chartered	‖12 %
■ Charterhouse Japhet	12 %	Trade Dev. Bank	12 %
Choulartons	12 %	Trustee Savings Bank	12 %
C. E. Coates	12 %	TCB Ltd.	12 %
Consolidated Credits	12 %	United Bank of Kuwait	12 %
Co-operative Bank	*12 %	Whiteaway Laidlaw	12½ %
Corinthian Secs.	12 %	Williams & Glyn's	12 %
The Cyprus Popular Bk.	12 %	Wintrust Secs. Ltd.	12 %
Duncan Lawrie	12 %	Yorkshire Bank	12 %
Eagil Trust	12 %		
E. T. Trust Limited	12 %		
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	14½ %		
First Nat. Secs. Ltd.	14½ %		
Robert Fraser	12 %		
Antony Gibbs	12 %		
Greyhound Guaranty	12 %		
Grindlays Bank	‡12 %		

■ Members of the Accepting Houses Committee.
* 7-day deposits 9%, 1-month 9¼%. Short term £4,000/12 months 11.85%.
† 7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 9%, up to £50,000 9¾%, and over £50,000 10½%.
‡ Call deposits £1,000 and over 9%.
§ Demand deposits 9½%.
‖ 21-day deposits over £1,000 10½%.

N—O—P

Q—R—S

Sony Cpn. (Y50) 815 (13/4)
Sotheby Parke Bernet Go. 482 5 90
Sound Diffusion (5p) 123 4 6
Searrow (G. W.) Sons (20p) 92⊕
Spear Jackson Interntl. 100 (13/4)
Spear (J. W.) Sons 118 (14/4)
Spencer Gears (Hldgs.) (5p) 15⊕
Spencer (George) 25
Spirax-Sarco Eng'g. 160 2. New (nil pd 24-4/81) 15 6 7 ½ 8 9
Sneng (10p) 4½ 5 (13/4)
Spring Grove Services (10p) 120
Squirrel Horn (12½p) 22 4 (14/4)
Staffordshire Potteries (Hldgs.) 56 7

T—U—V

W—Y—Z

FINANCIAL TRUSTS (194)

N.M.C. Invsts. (12½p) 15½ 7 (14/4)
Paramba (10p) 23
Park Place Invests. (10p) 94 7 (13/4)
Provident Financial Group 134 5 7
Smith Bros. 42 3½
Sterling Credit Group (10p) 10½ ¼ 1. (1p) 9½ 10 ¼ ½. New A (1p) (? pd. 6.5/81) 4 ½
Unisec Group (R0.20) 110 (14/4)

WEDNESDAY'S ACTIVE STOCKS

Based on bargains recorded in SE Official List

Stock	No. of price changes	Weds. closing price pence	Day's change	Stock	No. of price changes	Weds. closing price pence	Day's change
GEC	16	673	−4	Burmah	11	167	−5
Ultramar	16	450	−15	Ferranti	11	550	—
Westland	14	142	+6	P & O defd.	11	157	+3
KCA	13	163	−5	Shell	11	344	+17
Vickers	12	185	+9	Tele. Rentals	11	344	+17
Brit. Aerospace	11	209	+1	Plessey	10	320	−5
Brit. Car Auctn.	11	86½	+3½	Tilling (T.)	10	182	+7

4-DAY ACTIVE STOCKS

Based on bargains over the four-day period ending Thursday

Stock	No. of price changes	Weds. closing price pence	Change on week	Stock	No. of price changes	Weds. closing price pence	Change on week
Bowater	92	276	+16	Thorn EMI	62	382	+10
Royal Bk. Scot.	80	164	−2	Ultramar	62	450	−44
GEC	74	673	−7	Tanks	61	360	—
ICI	67	266	+2	Barclays	60	415	−5
Shell Trans.	67	354	−2	KCA	60	163	−21
GKN	64	166	+8	Lloyds	58	335	−21
Brit. Aerospace	62	209	−1	RTZ	58	463	−24

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INSURANCE (342)

INVESTMENT TRUSTS (504)

UNIT TRUSTS (12)

MINES—MISCELLANEOUS (245)

MINES—SOUTH AFRICAN

PLANTATIONS (75)

RAILWAYS (8)

SHIPPING (146)

OIL (794)

UTILITIES (51)

PROPERTY (374)

UNLISTED SECURITIES MARKET (146)

RULE 163 (1) (e)

Bargains marked in securities which are quoted or listed on an Overseas Stock Exchange.

RULE 163 (2) (a)

Applications granted for specific bargains in securities not listed on any Stock Exchange.

Adnams B 890 (10/4)
Adnams A 265 (10/4)
Airship Inds. 80 90 (14/4)

RULE 163 (3)

Bargains marked for approved companies engaged solely in mineral exploration.

* Denotes Irish currency.

Aran Energy 400 5 10 525*
Atlantic Resources 250 3 5 60
Berkeley Exploration and Production 300 3 5 8
Candecca Resources 181 5 6 7
Marinex Petroleum 140 1
Sun Oil (UK) 390 400 (14/4)

(By permission of the Stock Exchange Council)

LOCAL AUTHORITY BOND TABLE

Authority (telephone number in parentheses)	Annual gross interest	Interest payable	Minimum sum	Life of bond
	%		£	Year
Knowsley (051-548 6555)	12⅛	½-year	1,000	1-2

BUILDING SOCIETY RATES

	Deposit rate %	Share accounts %	Sub'pn shares %	*Term shares %
Abbey National	8.25	8.50	9.75	10.50 5 yrs., 10.00 4 yrs., 9.50 3 yrs.
Aid to Thrift	9.65	10.15	—	—
Alliance	8.25	8.50	9.75	10.50 5 yrs., 10.00 4 yrs., 9.50 3 yrs., 9.00 2 yrs., 9.50 3 months' notice
Anglia Hastings and Thanet	8.25	8.50	9.75	10.50 5 yrs., 10.00 4 yrs., 9.50 3 yrs.
Bradford and Bingley	8.25	8.50	9.75	9.25 1 mth. notice deposit
Bridgwater	8.25	8.50	10.00	10.50 5 yrs., 9.60 2½ yrs.
Bristol Economic	9.00	9.25	10.50	10.00 3 months. Escalator shares 9.75-11.25 (1-5 years)
Britannia	8.25	8.50	9.75	10.00 4 yrs., 9.50 3 months' notice
Burnley	†8.25	8.50	9.75	10.50 5 yrs., 10.00 4 yrs., 9.50 3 yrs.
Cardiff	9.00	10.25	11.25	—
Catholic	9.00	9.50	10.50	— Share a/cs 9.70 over £5,000
Chelsea	8.25	8.50	9.75	10.50 5 yrs., 9.90 1 yr., 9.55 6 months
Cheltenham and Gloucester	8.25	8.50	9.75	10.50 5 yrs., 10.00 4 yrs., 9.50 3 yrs.
Cheltenham and Gloucester	—	9.50	—	— Premium shares including 1.00 bonus p.a. (£15,000 or £20,000)
Citizens Regency	—	8.75	10.00	10.75 5 yrs., 9.75 3 yrs., 9.25 1 yr.
City of London (The)	8.50	8.75	9.60	9.41 9 mth. withdraw, increment sh.
Coventry Economic	8.25	8.50	9.75	10.00 4 yrs., 9.50 3 yrs., 9.25 3 mths.
Coventry Provident	8.25	8.50	10.50	10.55 av. 5 yr., 10.00 4 yr., 9.25 3 mths.
Derbyshire	9.00	9.25	10.50	8.75 to 9.25 3 months
Ealing and Acton	9.00	9.75	—	10.40 2 yrs., £2,000 minimum
Gateway	8.25	8.50	9.75	8.75 (6 mths.) rising to 10.50 (5 yrs.)
Greenwich	—	9.50	10.75	11.50 5 yrs., 11.00 4 yrs., 10.50 3 yrs.
Guardian	9.00	9.50	—	11.00 6 mth., 10.50 3 mth., min. £1,000
Halifax	8.25	8.50	9.75	10.50 5 yrs., 10.00 4 yrs., 9.50 3 yrs.
Heart of England	8.25	8.50	9.75	— 3 mths. notice 9.25, 5 yrs. 10.50
Hearts of Oak and Enfield	8.25	8.75	10.25	10.00 4 yrs., 9.75 3 yrs., 9.50 2 yrs.
Hendon	8.75	9.25	—	10.25 6 mths., 10.00 3 mths.
Huddersfield and Bradford	8.25	8.50	9.25	10.50 5 yrs., 10.00 4 yrs., 9.50 3 yrs., 9.00 2 yrs.
Lambeth	9.00	9.50	11.25	11.25 5 yrs., 11.00 6 months' notice
Leamington Spa	8.35	8.60	11.50	10.10 (1 year)
Leeds Permanent	8.25	8.50	9.75	10.50 5 yrs., Optns. fm. 8.75 (6 mths.)
Leicester	8.25	8.50	9.75	10.50 5 yrs., 10.00 4 yrs., 9.50 3 yrs.
Liverpool	8.25	8.50	9.80	10.50 5 yrs., minimum £1,000
London Grosvenor	8.25	9.00	11.00	9.50 6 months' notice
Melton Mowbray	9.10	9.35	10.50	10.85 4 yrs., 10.12 2 yrs.
Mornington	—	9.60	—	—
National Counties	9.25	9.55	10.55	10.25 35 days' notice min. dep. £500, 6 mths. 10.65
Nationwide	8.25	8.50	9.75	10.50 5 yrs., 10.00 4 yrs., 9.00 1 yr.
New Cross	9.00	9.25	—	9.25-10.00 on share accs., depending on min. balance over 6 mths.
Northern Rock	8.25	8.50	9.75	10.50 5 yrs., 10.00 4 yrs., 9.50 3 yrs.
Norwich	9.00	9.25	10.75	10.25 3 yrs., 10.00 2 yrs., min. £500
Peckham Mutual	9.25	9.55	—	—
Peckham Permanent	9.00	9.75	11.00	—
Portman	8.25	8.50	9.75	10.50 5 yrs., 9.55 6 months' notice
Portsmouth	8.60	8.80	10.30	10.85 (5 yrs.), 10.25 (6 mths.)
Property Owners	9.25	9.75	11.20	11.25 4 yrs., 11.00 6 mths., 10.50 3 mths.
Provincial	8.25	8.60	9.75	9.50 5, 4, 3 yrs., 9.00 2 yrs.
Skipton	9.00	9.25	10.50	11.25 5 yrs., 10.35 wdl. 1 mth. loss int.
Sussex County	8.50	8.75	10.55	11.00 6 yrs., 10.25 4 yrs., 9.50 2 yrs.
Sussex Mutual	9.25	9.80	11.25	10.00 11.25 all with special options
Town and Country	8.25	8.50	9.75	10.50 5 yrs., 10.00 4 yrs., 9.50 3 yrs.
Walthamstow	9.00	9.50	10.50	10.50 6 months' notice, min. £1,000
Wessex	8.50	9.25	—	10.25 min. 3 yrs., 6 mth. notice of wdl.
Woolwich	8.25	8.50	9.75	10.50 5 yrs., 8.75 6 mths.

* Rates normally variable in line with changes in ordinary share rates. † Effective from May 1. All these rates are after basic rate tax liability has been settled on behalf of the investor.

UK MONEY MARKET

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 12 per cent (from March 10, 1981)

The Treasury bill rate fell by 0.0609 per cent at yesterday's tender to 11.2883 per cent and the minimum accepted bid rose to £97.18 from £97.17. Bids at that level were met as to about 32 per cent and above in full. The £100m of bills on offer attracted bids of £357.14m and all bills offered were allotted. Next week a further £100m will be on offer, replacing a similar amount of maturities.

Day-to-day credit was in short supply in the London money market yesterday and the authorities gave assistance on an exceptionally large scale. This comprised small purchases of Treasury bills and local authority and an extremely large amount of eligible bank bills, all direct from discount houses.

The market was faced with a large number of eligible bank bills maturing in official bands and a moderate increase in the note circulation ahead of the long Easter weekend. In addition, banks brought forward balances a small way below target. Discount houses were paying up to 12 per cent for secured call loans at the start, with later balances taken at 11-11½ per cent. In the interbank market weekend money opened at 12-12¼ per cent and traded between 11½ per cent and 12⅝ per cent before closing at 11-11½ per cent.

EXCHANGES AND BULLION

Trading was quiet in currency markets yesterday on the last day before the long Easter weekend. The dollar maintained its firm undertone with the prospect of higher U.S. interest rates encouraging short covering in a rather thin market. Various central banks may have intervened from time to time to smooth out the sharp fluctuations caused by the low volume of trading. The dollar closed at DM 2.1865 against the D-mark compared with DM 2.1765 on Wednesday and SwFr 1.9925 from SwFr 1.9860 in terms of the Swiss franc. It was also firmer against the Japanese yen, finishing at Y217.10 from Y216.4. On Bank of England figures, the dollar's trade weighted index rose from 102.4 to 103.0.

Sterling was slightly weaker overall and its trade weighted index fell to 98.8 from 98.9, having stood at 98.9 at noon and in the morning. Against the dollar it opened at $2.1450 and rose to touch $2.16 during the afternoon. However the entry of New York into the market coincided with renewed dollar demand and the pound fell back to close at $2.1530-$2.1550, a fall of 40 points from Wednesday. Against European currencies sterling showed a small improvement, finishing at DM 4.71 from DM 4.70 and FFr 11.1150 compared with FFr 11.1050.

Gold rose $8 an ounce on short-covering in the London bullion market ahead of the weekend, closing at $481-$484 which was a rise on the week of $10.

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

April 16	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
U.S.	2.1450-2.1600	2.1530-2.1550	0.90-1.00c dis	−5.29	2.28-2.38dis	−4.33
Canada	2.5710-2.5880	2.5730-2.5750	1.10-1.20c dis	−5.36	3.25-3.40dis	−5.17
Nethlnd.	5.21-5.24	5.22-5.23	1¼-¾c pm	1.72	2⅝-1⅝ pm	1.63
Belgium	77.00-77.50	77.10-77.20	40-50c dis	−7.00	115-130 dis	−6.35
Denmark	14.77-14.84	14.79-14.81	4½-5¾ore dis	−4.21	15-16⅞ dis	−4.27
Ireland	1.2885-1.2965	1.2905-1.2920	0.28-0.40p dis	−3.16	0.95-1.10dis	−3.18
W. Ger.	4.69-4.72	4.70½-4.71½	⅛pf-pm-⅜ dis	−0.32	¼-⅜ dis	−0.42
Portugal	125.90-126.50	126.00-126.30	10-85c dis	−4.52	30-200 dis	−3.65
Spain	190.00-191.00	190.20-190.50	80-115c dis	−6.15	240-290 dis	−5.57
Italy	2,340-2,350	2,340-2,342	14⅞-16⅞ lire dis	−7.82	41-44 dis	−7.26
Norway	11.81-11.86	11.82-11.84	1ore pm-⅜ dis	0.19	¾ pm-⅞ dis	−0.02
France	11.10-11.15	11.11-11.12	½-1⅛c dis	−0.67	2⅜-3½ dis	−1.17
Sweden	10.16-10.20	10.16¾-10.18¾	3-4ore dis	−4.13	10-11 dis	−4.13
Japan	465-470	467-468	2½-1½y pm	4.65	6-5¾ pm	4.81
Austria	33.20-33.40	33.22-33.27	4 gro pm-1 dis	0.54	7 pm-3 dis	0.24
Switz.	4.27-4.32	4.28¾-4.29¾	1¼-¾c pm	2.80	3½-3 pm	3.03

Belgian rate is for convertible francs. Financial franc 79.80-79.90.
Six-month forward dollar 4.45-4.55c dis, 12-month 7.00-7.20c dis.
Rates for April 15 were: six-month 4.30-4.40c dis, 12-month 6.80-7.00c dis.

GOLD

	April 16		April 15	
Gold Bullion (fine ounce)				
Close	$481-484	(£223½-224¾)	$473-476	(£219-222½)
Opening	$476-479	(£221¼-222½)	$481-484	(£221½-222¾)
Morning fixing	$481.50	(£223.299)	$480.25	(£221.620)
Afternoon fixing	$482.50	(£224.21)	$475.25	(£220.028)
Gold Coins				
Krugerrand	$491-498	(£228-229¾)	$489-490	£226½ 227)
1/2 Kugerrand	$256½-257½	(£119¼-119¾)	$251½-252½	(£116½-117)
1/4 Krugerand	$130¾-131¾	(£60½-61)	$128½-129½	(£59½-60)
1/10 Krugerrand	$55-56	(£25½-26)	$54-55	(£25-25½)
Mapleleaf	$483-488	(£224½-226½)	$484-485	(£224¼-222¾)
New Sovereigns	$121-121¾	(£56¼-56¾)	$120-122	(£55½-56½)
King Sovereigns	$139-141	(£64½-65½)	$139-141	(£64¼-65¼)
Victoria Sovs.	$139-141	(£64½-65½)	$139-141	(£64¼-65¼)
French 20s	$179-182	(£83-84½)	$178-181	(£82½-84)
50 pesos Mexico	$594-598	(£275-277½)	$594-599	(£275-277½)
100 Cor. Austria	$464-468	(£215½-217½)	$494-498	(£228-230½)
$20 Eagles	$590-595	(£274½-276)	$593-598	(£274-277)

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

April 16	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutschem'k	Japan'se Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guild'	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc
Pound Sterling	1.	2.154	4.710	467.5	11.12	4.293	5.225	2341.	2.574	77.15
U.S. Dollar	0.464	1.	2.187	217.0	5.160	1.993	2.426	1087.	1.195	35.82
Deutschemark	0.212	0.457	1.	99.26	2.360	0.911	1.109	497.0	0.546	16.38
Japanese Yen 1,000	2.139	4.607	10.07	1000.	23.78	9.182	11.18	5007.	5.506	165.0
French Franc 10	0.900	1.938	4.236	420.6	10.	3.862	4.701	2106.	2.316	69.41
Swiss Franc	0.233	0.502	1.097	108.9	2.589	1.	1.217	545.4	0.600	17.97
Dutch Guilder	0.191	0.412	0.901	89.47	2.127	0.822	1.	448.0	0.493	14.77
Italian Lira 1,000	0.427	0.920	2.012	199.7	4.748	1.834	2.232	1000.	1.100	32.96
Canadian Dollar	0.389	0.837	1.830	181.6	4.318	1.668	2.030	909.5	1.	29.97
Belgian Franc 100	1.296	2.792	6.105	606.0	14.41	5.564	6.773	3034.	3.336	100.

FT LONDON INTERBANK FIXING (11.00 a.m. APRIL 16)

3 months U.S. dollars		6 months U.S. dollars	
bid 16 3/8	offer 16 1/2	bid 16 3/8	offer 16 1/2

The fixing rates are the arithmetic means, rounded to the nearest one-sixteenth, of the bid and offered rates for $10m quoted by the market to five reference banks at 11 am each working day. The banks are National Westminster Bank, Bank of Tokyo, Deutsche Bank, Banque Nationale de Paris and Morgan Guaranty Trust.

LONDON MONEY RATES

April 16 1981	Sterling Certificate of deposit	Interbank	Local Authority deposits	Local Auth. negotiable bonds	Finance House Deposits	Company Deposits	Discount Market Deposits	Treasury Bills ⊕	Eligible Bank Bills ⊕	Fine Trade Bills ⊕
Overnight	—	11-12⅝	—	-	—	11¾	11-12	—	—	—
2 days notice	—	—	11⅞	—	—	-	-	—	—	—
7 days or	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 days notice	—	12-12¼	12⅛	—	12¼	12⅝	12	—	—	—
One month	12 7/16-12 5/16	12¼-12⅝	12 7/16	13⅛-12⅞	12½	12⅝	11¾	11 19/32	11 [illegible]	12⅝
Two months	12 5/16-12⅛	12¼-12⅜	—	13-12¾	12½	12⅝	11¾	11⅜-11 [illegible]	11 [illegible]	12½
Three months	12¼-12⅛	12¼-12⅜	12⅛	12¾-12⅝	12 [illegible]	12⅝	11⅝-11¾	11 [illegible]-11⅝	11 [illegible]	12¼
Six months	12 7/16-12	12⅛-12¼	12	12½-12⅛	12 [illegible]	12⅝	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nine months	12⅛-12	12⅛-12¼	—	12⅜-12 [illegible]	12 [illegible]	12⅝	—	—	—	—
One year	12⅛-11 [illegible]	12 [illegible]-12 [illegible]	12⅛	12⅜-12⅛	12⅝	12⅝	—	—	—	—
Two years	—	—	12½	—	—	-	—	—	—	—

Local authorities and finance houses seven days' notice, others seven days' fixed. Long-term local authority mortgage rates nominally three years 12¾ per cent; four years 13 per cent; five years 13¼ per cent. ⊕Bank bill rates in table are buying rates for prime paper. Buying rates for four-months bank bills 11½ per cent; four-months trade bills 12⅜ per cent.

Approximate selling rate for one-month Treasury bills 11⅝-11 [illegible] per cent; two-months 11½-11⅝ per cent; three-months 11 [illegible]-11⅛ per cent. Approximate selling rate for one-month bank bills 11 [illegible]-11 [illegible] per cent; two-months 11 [illegible]-11 [illegible] per cent; three-months 11 [illegible]-11 [illegible] per cent; one-month trade bills 12⅜ per cent; two-months 12⅜ per cent and three-months 12 per cent.

Finance Houses Base Rates (published by the Finance Houses Association) 13 per cent from April 1, 1981. Clearing Bank Deposit Rates for sums at seven days' notice 9 per cent. Clearing Bank Rates for lending 12 per cent. Treasury Bills: Average tender rates of discount 11.2883 per cent.

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

April 16	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes%
Sterling	98.8	n.a.
U.S. dollar	103.0	n.a.
Canadian dollar	86.1	n.a.
Austrian schilling	115.3	n.a.
Belgian franc	107.3	n.a.
Danish kroner	88.6	n.a.
Deutsche mark	120.0	n.a.
Swiss franc	133.9	n.a.
Guilder	111.3	n.a.
French franc	86.0	n.a.
Lira	59.1	n.a.
Yen	142.3	n.a.

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971. Bank of England Index (base average 1975=100).

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES (Market closing Rates)

April 16	Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Canadian Dollar	Dutch Guilder	Swiss Franc	West German Mark	French Franc	Italian Lira	Belgian Franc Convertible	Japanese Yen
Short term	11⅞-12	15½-15¾	16½-17½	10-10⅛	4¾-5¼	11¾-11⅞	12¼-12⅝	17⅛-19	16-18	5-5⅛
7 days' notice	11 11⅞	15½-15¾	16½-17½	10-10⅛	4¾-5¼	11¾-11⅞	12⅝-12¾	18½-19¾	16-18	6-6¼
Month	12-12⅛	17⅛-17⅜	17⅜-17⅝	10⅛-10⅜	8⅜-8½	12⅜-12½	13-13⅛	18-19	18-20	6 [illegible]-6 [illegible]
Three months	12-12¼	16⅜-16⅝	17⅛-17½	10⅜-10½	8¾-8⅞	12 [illegible]-12 [illegible]	13⅛-13⅜	19-20	17-19	6 [illegible]-7 [illegible]
Six months	12-12⅛	16⅜-16⅝	16¾-17⅛	10½-10⅝	8⅞-9	12⅜-12½	13⅝-13¾	19¼-20¼	16-18	7 [illegible]-7 [illegible]
One Year	12 [illegible]-12 [illegible]	15⅝-15⅞	15⅞-16¼	10⅝-10¾	8¼-8⅜	12 [illegible]-12 [illegible]	13⅝-13¾	19-20	15-17	7 [illegible]-8 [illegible]

SDR linked deposits: one-month 13⅞-14⅛ per cent; three-months 13½-13⅞ per cent; six-months 13½-13⅞ per cent; one-year 13⅞-13½ per cent.
ECU linked deposits: one-month 13 [illegible]-13⅞ per cent; three-months 13⅞-13¼ per cent; six-months 13 [illegible]-13 [illegible] per cent; one-year 13¼-13⅞ per cent.
Asian $ (closing rates in Singapore): one-month 16 [illegible]-16 [illegible] per cent; three-months 16 [illegible]-16 [illegible] per cent; six-months 16 [illegible]-15 [illegible] per cent; one-year 15⅞-16 per cent. Long-term Eurodollar two-years 15⅜-15½ per cent; three-years 15¼-15½ per cent; four-years 15⅜-15½ per cent; five-years 15⅜-15½ per cent; nominal closing rates. Short-term rates are call for U.S. dollars, Canadian dollars and Japanese yen; others two-days' notice.
The following nominal rates were quoted for London dollar certificates of deposit: one-month 15.70-15.80 per cent; three-months 15.90-16.0 per cent; six-months 15.95-16.05 per cent; one-year 15.30-15.40 per cent.

EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

	ECU central rates	Currency amounts against ECU April 16	% change from central rate	% change adjusted for divergence	Divergence limit %
Belgian Franc	40.7985	41.5822	+1.92	+1.88	±1.5361
Danish Krone	7.91917	7.97136	+0.66	+0.62	±1.6413
German D-Mark	2.54502	2.53621	−0.35	−0.39	±1.1386
French Franc	5.99526	5.99302	−0.04	−0.08	±1.3638
Dutch Guilder	2.81318	2.81376	−0.02	−0.02	±1.5159
Irish Punt	0.685145	0.69584	+1.56	+1.52	±1.6698
Italian Lira	1262.92	1262.42	−0.04	−0.04	±4.1116

Changes are for ECU, therefore positive change denotes a weak currency. Adjustment calculated by Financial Times.

OTHER CURRENCIES

April 16	£	$		£ Note Rates
Argentina Peso	6605-6625	3071-3081	Austria	33.10-33.50
Australia Dollar	1.8715-1.8735	0.8703-0.8707	Belgium	79.90-79.90
Brazil Cruzeiro	170.80-171.80	79.46-79.86	Denmark	14.60-14.75
Finland Markka	9.0014-9.0164	4.1620-4.1650	France	11.05-11.15
Greek Drachma	115.005-115.975	53.10-53.20	Germany	4.69-4.73½
Hong Kong Dollar	11.58-11.68	5.3785-5.3815	Italy	2305-2365
Iran Rial	165.10	76.25	Japan	466-473
Kuwait Dinar(KD)	0.590-0.596	0.27580-0.27600	Netherlands	5.19-5.24
Luxembourg Frc	77.10-77.20	35.83-35.85	Norway	11.79-11.91
Malaysia Dollar	5.0050-5.0150	2.3255-2.3275	Portugal	123-125
New Zealand Dir	2.3930-2.3950	1.1117-1.1129	Spain	185¼-195½
Saudi Arab. Riyal	7.17-7.23	3.3505-3.3525	Sweden	10.15-10.25
Singapore Dollar	4.5450-4.5550	2.1110-2.1130	Switzerland	4.27½-4.32
Sth African Rand	1.7546-1.7583	0.8163-.8146	United States	2.14¼-2.16¼
U.A.E. Dirham	7.87-7.93	3.6720-3.6740	Yugoslavia	78-81.50

Rate given for Argentina is free rate. *Selling rate.

U.K. CONVERTIBLE STOCKS 18/4/81

Statistics provided by dataSTREAM International

Name and description	Size (£m)	Current price	Terms*	Con-version dates♧	Flat yield	Red. yield	Premium† Current	Premium† Range‡	Income Equ.§	Income Conv.¶	Income Div.♡	Cheap(+) Dear(−)◊ Current
British Land 12pc Cv. 2002	9.71	328.00	333.3	80-97	3.7	0.6	−1.1	−5 to 0	18.3	85.8	20.3	+21.4
Hanson Trust 6½pc Cv. 88-93	3.02	142.00	57.1	76-82	4.6	0.7	−4.1	−6 to −0	7.3	3.1	−2.7	+1.3
Slough Estates 10pc Cv. 87-90	5.44	264.00	187.5	78-85	3.8		−0.8	−5 to 1	28.7	32.3	1.3	+2.2
Slough Estates 8pc Cv. 91-94	24.88	130.00	78.0	80-91	6.3	4.6	17.4	7 to 17	28.3	48.1	17.8	+0.5

* Number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. † The extra cost of investment in convertible expressed as per cent of the cost of the equity in the convertible stock. ‡ Three-month range. § Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is summed from present time until income on ordinary shares is greater than income on £100 nominal of convertible or the final conversion date whichever is earlier. Income is assumed to grow at 10 per cent per annum and is present valued at 12 per cent per annum. ¶ Income on £100 of convertible. Income is summed until conversion and present valued at 12 per cent per annum. ♡ This is income of the convertible less income of the underlying equity expressed as per cent of the value of the underlying equity. ◊ The difference between the premium and income difference expressed as per cent of the value of underlying equity. + is an indication of relative cheapness. − is an indication of relative dearness. ♧ Second date is assumed date of conversion. This is not necessarily the last date of conversion.

Euphoria as 30-share index registers biggest one-day rise in two years to record 568.5—Gilts quietly firm

Account Dealing Dates

Option *First Dealings	Declarations	Last Dealings	Account Day
Mar. 30	Apr. 8	Apr. 9	Apr. 21
Apr. 10	Apr. 29	Apr. 30	May 11
May 1	May 14	May 15	May 26

* "New time" dealings may take place from 9 am two business days earlier.

Euphoria ruled in the last session of London equity markets prior to the four-day *Easter holiday as leading shares* surged to record highs. The buoyancy was measured by the biggest rise for two years in the FT Industrial Ordinary share index, which jumped 19.4 to an all-time peak of 568.5. Illustrating the continuing overall *strength of equity markets*, the broader-based FT-Actuaries All-share index, covering 750 *companies, rose 2.5 per cent to a* best-ever 324.15.

Dealers had expected trading to be subdued by holiday influences, but last-minute decisions by two or three smaller institutions to invest funds before the holiday took them by surprise. The March retail price index was well below the figure widely forecast which encouraged *further support and the general* shortage of stock became pro*gressively* more acute, causing some traders to bid stock up to balance their trading positions. The basic equity stimulant was still growing optimism about the UK recession flattening out and the economy being poised for an upturn.

The Government's White paper on Defence gave a fillip to Electrical and Electronic shares which rebounded smartly from Wednesday's lower levels and **GEC** jumped 29 to 702p. Many other leading industrials achieved double-figure gains and *closed at the session's best with* the notable exception of **Hawker Siddeley**; sentiment here re*mained clouded by the previous* day's preliminary statement.

Gilt-edged securities were overshadowed by buoyant equities. Opening quotations were a shade easier but the tone improved on the retail prices news and longer-dated stocks *went higher, usually to the* extent of ¼ but sometimes more. The announcement later of the *mid-March money stock rise of* 0.7 per cent was mildly disappointing but had no apparent impact on sentiment.

Support for the underlying *securities resulted in 3,382 deals* being arranged in Traded options, the highest so far this year. **Imperial** were especially active, attracting 955 trades, 925 of which were dealt in the *May* 80's. **Courtaulds** recorded 374 trades, while **ICI** and **BP** were dealt 552 and 301 times respectively. The short week's daily *average amounted to 1,331.*

British Aerospace touched a new peak of 225p before closing 12 up at 221p.

Arbuthot Latham good

Arbuthnot Latham met further support and put on 18 for a two-day gain of 28 to 298p. **Royal Bank of Scotland** touched 172p before closing 4 up on balance at 168p pending bid developments. Renewed demand *for the major clearers resulted* in gains of 10 in **Barclays**, 425p, **Midland**, 325p, and **NatWest**, *373p*. **Lloyds** *added 5 to 340p.*

Insurances shrugged aside recent lethargy and participated in the general advance.

Breweries closed with useful gains, although the level business again left much to be desired. **Allied** featured with a *gain of 5 at 75p*, while **Bass** added a like amount at 224p. Among regionals, **Boddingtons** *firmed 6 to 152p following the* annual report, while perennial takeover favourite **Davenports** attracted renewed support and closed 8 up at 130p. Wines and Spirits also displayed good rises with **Distillers**, 200p, and **Arthur Bell**, 202p, both up around 5.

Business in Buildings was virtually one way. Among the leaders, **Blue Circle** gained 10 to 426p and **Tarmac** 6 to 353p, while **London Brick** improved 3 to 75p. Secondary issues featured **Tilbury Contracting**, which touched 255p before closing 25 up at 250p following the reduced annual loss and maintained dividend. A Press men*tion* helped **Howard Shuttering** to add 4 to 44p, while **HAT Group** put on 4½ to 76½p and **Heywood Williams** firmed 6 for a two-day gain of 10 to 41p. **French Kier** improved 3 afresh to 72p, while gains of around 10 were marked against **Higgs and Hill**, 123p, and **Marchwiel**, 129p.

Stores firm

ICI came in for reasonable support and, in a market short *of stock, gained 16 to 282p*; the first-quarter figures are due at the end of the month. **Fisons** rallied 6 to 158p. **Yorkshire Chemicals** attracted further small buying and touched 42p before closing 3 dearer at 40p, while **Allied Colloids** revived and gained 11 to 138p and **Stewart Plastics** rose 7 to 117p.

Leading Stores ended with *useful gains, particular attention* being paid to high-yielding issues. **Woolworths**, 67p, **Debenhams**, 99p, and **UDS**, 86p, all rose around 4. Renewed speculation lifted **Cornell Dresses**, 100p, and *Polly Peck*, *235p, by* 10 and 17 respectively, while **Wearwell** added 2 to 87p. **Harris Queensway** remained a firm market ahead of next Wednes*day's preliminary results* and ended 10 dearer at 228p. Press comment aided **Waring and Gillow**, 6 up at *170p, while* a more detailed appraisal of the full-year figures saw **Home Charm** advance 9 to 124p. Lower annual profits from **Arthur Henriques** were outweighed by the maintained dividend and confident outlook and the shares *rose 3 to 24p.*

Further consideration of the Defence White Paper directed attention to the Electrical sector. **GEC** were outstanding with a rise of 29 to 702p, while **Thorn EMI** were also prominent at 400p, up 18. **Plessey** and **Racal** *advanced around 8 apiece to* 327p and 378p respectively. **Ferranti** rose 18 to 568p and *United Scientific 15 to 413p.* Still reflecting satisfaction with the annual results, **Air Call** improved 7 more to 197p, but **Forward Technology** fell 12 to 111p in the late dealings following news of the special £1m tax provision.

Leading Engineers were quick to respond to a fairly modest demand. **GKN** closed 12 to the good at 178p and **Tubes** 10 higher at 222p, while **John Brown** rose 5½ to 95½p. Gains in secondary issues were also often accentuated by stock shortage, in particular, **Williams and James**, which advanced 17 to 90p. **Westland**, up 8 at 150p, *made further headway in line* with other defence issues. **Renold** attracted buyers and put on 6 to 73p along with **Edbro**, a similar amount dearer at 43p. **Pegler Hattersley** improved 10 to 176p, while **Hopkinsons** were noteworthy for a rise of 7 at 92p.

Foods traded firmly as buyers found stock in short supply. *Following the Government's* willingness to consider selling its 24 per cent stake in the company, **British Sugar** were actively traded and touched 318p before closing 11 up at 316p. **Tate and Lyle**, dull recently on the depressed sugar *price, revived with a gain of 10* at 180p. **Unigate** came in for support and put on 5 to 113p. **Somportex** advanced 100 to 950p and **Hillards** 14 to 266p, both in thin markets.

Moving sharply against the trend in Hotels and Caterers, **Savoy A**, in *receipt of a* £58m bid from **Trusthouse Forte**, shed 12 to 186p following the High Court ruling dismissing an application by Trusthouse to convene separate meetings of Savoy's A and B shareholders; Trusthouse hardened 3 to 298p. Elsewhere, **Grand Metropolitan** *rose 7 to 202p and* **Ladbroke** 8 to 310p.

Numerous and sometimes substantial gains were recorded throughout the miscellaneous industrials sector. **Glaxo**, 346p, and **Reckitt and Colman**, 250p, advanced 12 apiece in the leaders, while **Turner and Newall** rose 7 to 105p and **Beecham** 6 to 188.

Oils rally

Helped by overnight Wall Street influences, Oil shares staged a largely technical rally. Leading issues quickly responded to occasional buying interest. **BP** *closing* 16 to the good at 400p and **Shell** 28 up at 392p. Elsewhere, **Ultramar** rallied 15 to 465p and *Tricentrol* 8 to 268p. Comment on the preliminary figures, however, left **Burmah** 3 cheaper at 164p.

Among Overseas Traders, *Lonrho* firmed 3 to 96p, but **Boustead** gave up 4 more to 160p; the latter announces annual results next Tuesday. **Paterson Zochonis** issues were firm following the proposed scrip issue: the Ordinary closed 10 higher at 530p and the A put on 17 at 527p.

The upsurge in UK equities spilled over into the London-based *mining financials which* were additionally boosted by the firmer bullion price—finally $8 up at $482.50 an ounce.

Rio Tinto-Zinc were outstanding and closed 12 higher at 475p while rises of 10 were common to **Gold Fields**, 475p, and **Charter Consolidated**, 233p. **Tanks**, on the other hand, met profit-taking *and eased 2 to 358p.*

South African Golds advanced for the third successive day, sustained by good overnight American buying, a shortage of stock and persistent interest from London, Johannesburg and the Continent.

In the heavyweights, gains of a point and sometimes more were seen in **Randfontein**, £27¾, **Hartebeest**, £29¼, and **Kloof**, £15¾, while the medium and *lower-priced issues were featured* by **Libanon**, 108 to the good at 986p, and **Stilfontein**, 85 higher at 974p. The Gold Mines index moved up 10.9 to 353.8 for a week's rise of 18.3.

South African Financials were equally firm. **Anglo American Corporation** added 20 to 645p and **UC Investments** 25 to 575p.

Australians were generally better in quiet trading, reflecting renewed strength in overnight Sydney and Melbourne markets and gains in precious and base-metal prices.

CRA *rose 9 more to 252p*—a two-day gain of 16—**Seltrust A** 10 to 120p and **Poseidon** 3 to 242p. In Coals, **Oakbridge** edged up 3 to a 1981 high of 148p.

The speculatives came in for good support. **North West Mining** added 4 to 54p, **Pelsart** *Resources 2 to 36p* and **Metramar** a penny more to a year's high of 34p.

Elsewhere, **Cons. Murchison** put on 10 to 240p following the return to profitability in the March quarter.

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	Apr. 16	Apr. 15	Apr. 14	Apr. 13	Apr. 10	Apr. 9	A year ago
Government Secs.	69.23	69.23	69.25	69.10	69.68	69.37	66.74
Fixed Interest	71.10	71.13	71.10	71.08	71.17	71.30	67.02
Industrial Ord.	568.5	549.1	548.6	546.6	551.3	549.8	442.6
Gold Mines	353.8	342.9	341.4	328.3	335.5	347.7	289.2
Ord. Div. Yield	5.78	5.98	5.97	5.99	5.96	5.98	7.96
Earnings, Yld. %(full)	11.28	11.62	11.61	11.61	11.55	11.61	19.50
P/E Ratio (net) (*)	11.09	10.78	10.79	10.79	10.86	10.57	6.23
Total bargains	21,400	21,074	22,750	27,147	25,600	27,747	16,950
Equity turnover £m.	—	120.99	117.07	138.54	179.21	217.64	79.76
Equity bargains	—	14,599	15,517	18,547	20,955	23,365	11,511

10 am 551.8. 11 am 555.8. Noon 561.4. 1 pm 564.0.
2 pm 565.3. 3 pm 566.1.
Latest Index 01-246 8026.
*Nil = 10.27.

Basis 100 Govt. Secs. 15/10/26. Fixed Int. 1928. Industrial Ord. 1/7/35. Gold Mines 12/9/55. SE Activity 1974.

HIGHS AND LOWS

	1981 High	1981 Low	Since Compilat'n High	Since Compilat'n Low
Govt. Secs.	70.61 (20/3)	68.05 (16/1)	127.4 (9/1/35)	49.18 (3/1/75)
Fixed Int	72.01 (20/3)	69.98 (16/1)	150.4 (28/11/47)	50.53 (3/1/75)
Ind.Ord.	568.5 (16/4)	445.0 (14/1)	568.5 16/4/81	49.4 (26/6/40)
Gold Mines	421.1 (16/3)	281.4 (29/1)	558.9 (22/9/80)	43.5 (26/10/71)

S.E. ACTIVITY

	Apr. 15	Apr. 14
—Daily		
Gilt Edged Bargains	187.5	205.4
Equities Bargains	93.3	100.5
Value	244.5	236.6
5-day Avrge.		
Gilt Edged Bargains	188.4	188.4
Equities Bargains	120.8	128.4
Value	312.7	330.1

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1981

The following shares quoted in the Share Information Service on Thursday attained new Highs and Lows for 1981.

NEW HIGHS (399)

BRITISH FUNDS (4)
AMERICANS (7)
CANADIANS (2)
BANKS (4)
BEERS (11)
BUILDINGS (20)
CHEMICALS (6)
DRAPERY AND STORES (16)
ELECTRICALS (9)
ENGINEERING (45)
FOODS (11)
HOTELS (5)
INDUSTRIALS (65)
INSURANCE (5)
LEISURE (5)
MOTORS (11)
NEWSPAPERS (4)
PAPER (4)
PROPERTY (5)
SHIPPING (4)
SOUTH AFRICANS (1)
TEXTILES (15)
TOBACCOS (1)
TRUSTS (126)
OIL AND GAS (1)
OVERSEAS TRADERS (4)
RUBBERS (4)
MINES (4)

NEW LOWS (5)

ELECTRICALS (1)
Forward Tech.
LEISURE (1)
HTV Non-Voting
TEXTILES (1)
Sekers Intl.
OILS (1)
Texaco 4¾pc Cnv.
MINES (1)
SPO Minerals

RISES AND FALLS

	Thursday Rises	Thursday Falls	Thursday Same	On The Week Rises	On The Week Falls	On The Week Same
British Funds	63	11	24	170	118	104
Corpns, Dom. & Foreign Bonds	2	7	58	8	18	242
Industrials	543	97	728	1,356	924	3,192
Financial & Props.	290	32	170	517	491	962
Oils	41	10	26	79	93	136
Plantations	6	1	16	22	12	58
Mines	82	17	73	198	173	293
Others	71	38	51	223	193	212
Totals	1,098	207	1,146	2,573	2,022	5,199

ACTIVE STOCKS

Above average activity was noted in the following stocks on Thursday

Stock	Closing price pence	Day's change	Stock	Closing price pence	Day's change
Bowater	284	+8	Lucas	220	+11
British Aerospace	221	+12	Plessey	327	+7
British Sugar	316	+11	Thorn EMI	400	+18
Flight Refuelling	373	+18	Tilling (T.)	192	+10
GEC	702	+29	Westland	150	+8
ICI	282	+16	Woolworth	67	+3½

OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
Apr. 21	May 1	July 23	Aug. 3
May 11	May 22	Aug. 6	Aug. 17
May 26	June 5	Aug. 26	Sept. 7

For rate indications see end of Share Information Service

Calls were arranged in Bardsey, KCA, *Double Eagle*, J. Hepworth, British Aerospace, BSG, LRC, Rothmans International, Benjamin Priest, ICL, P and O Deferred, Turner and Newall, Paringa, Selincourt, Premier Oil, Associated Communications and South Crofty. Puts were arranged in Rothmans and GKN. No doubles were reported.

FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

	EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS (Figures in parentheses show number of stocks per section)	Thur. Apr 16 Index No.	Day's Change %	Est. Earnings Yield % (Max.)	Gross Div. Yield % (ACT at 30%)	Est. P/E Ratio (Net)	Wed. April 15 Index No.	Tues. April 14 Index No.	Mon. April 13 Index No.	Fri. April 10 Index No.	Year ago (approx.) Index No.	1981 High	1981 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
1	CAPITAL GOODS (214)	357.61	+2.7	10.79	4.45	11.43	348.37	348.69	348.65	351.74	239.72	357.61 (16/4)	272.28 (15/1)	357.61 (16/4/81)	50.71 (13/12/74)
2	Building Materials (25)	312.95	+1.9	14.16	5.57	8.51	307.06	307.94	308.53	310.34	235.53	312.95 (16/4)	236.82 (13/1)	312.95 (16/4/81)	44.27 (11/12/74)
3	*Contracting, Construction (25)*	585.45	+1.4	16.07	4.62	7.42	577.20	576.88	576.62	579.36	355.83	585.45 (16/4)	403.39 (8/1)	585.45 (16/4/81)	71.48 (2/12/74)
4	Electricals (28)	1115.63	+3.2	7.82	2.38	15.88	1080.84	1085.25	1093.27	1098.70	631.02	1115.63 (16/4)	888.13 (15/1)	1115.63 (16/4/81)	84.71 (25/6/62)
5	Engineering Contractors (11)	477.12	+0.2	13.23	5.42	9.33	475.97	478.01	474.48	482.78	283.47	482.78 (10/4)	374.44 (20/1)	482.78 (10/4/81)	64.39 (2/1/75)
6	Mechanical Engineering (70)	221.07	+2.3	12.56	5.55	10.04	216.19	216.27	213.87	216.34	160.32	221.07 (16/4)	162.47 (15/1)	221.07 (16/4/81)	45.43 (6/1/75)
8	Metals and Metal Forming (13)	174.92	+2.8	9.63	7.43	13.65	170.22	170.63	168.82	172.95	163.47	174.92 (16/4)	127.24 (14/1)	192.29 (4/5/79)	49.65 (6/1/75)
9	Motors (21)	106.25	+3.5	8.93	7.83	15.07	102.62	101.70	100.90	102.79	103.10	106.25 (16/4)	84.67 (23/1)	170.59 (15/1/69)	19.91 (6/1/75)
10	Other Industrial Materials (18)	386.96	+3.4	10.71	5.31	11.16	374.24	371.02	371.07	375.21	0.00	386.96 (16/4)	277.55 (15/1)	386.96 (16/4/81)	277.55 (15/1/81)
21	CONSUMER GROUP (196)	277.90	+2.1	13.36	5.64	9.08	272.25	272.59	272.61	274.90	219.13	277.90 (16/4)	227.50 (14/1)	277.90 (16/4/81)	61.41 (13/12/74)
22	Brewers and Distillers (20)	301.06	+3.0	15.39	6.08	7.71	292.33	293.22	293.34	296.46	271.26	301.06 (16/4)	244.42 (13/1)	306.45 (8/7/80)	69.47 (13/12/74)
25	Food Manufacturing (21)	256.16	+1.7	15.51	6.16	7.65	251.76	252.25	251.96	254.31	191.69	256.16 (16/4)	204.17 (14/1)	256.16 (16/4/81)	59.67 (11/12/74)
26	Food Retailing (14)	534.58	+0.5	8.45	3.02	13.98	531.79	534.20	538.09	542.92	299.28	542.92 (10/4)	440.89 (11/3)	542.92 (10/4/81)	54.25 (11/12/74)
27	Health and Household Products (7)	304.56	+3.4	8.98	4.71	13.22	294.54	296.48	295.38	293.81	191.87	304.56 (16/4)	245.38 (14/1)	304.56 (16/4/81)	175.38 (28/5/80)
29	Leisure (22)	433.99	+1.7	11.74	5.17	10.30	426.86	424.18	420.74	423.32	291.71	433.99 (16/4)	327.38 (16/1)	433.99 (16/4/81)	54.83 (9/1/75)
32	Newspapers, Publishing (12)	491.85	+0.7	17.07	6.01	7.74	488.21	486.01	488.59	494.22	416.40	494.22 (10/4)	419.04 (15/1)	494.22 (10/4/81)	55.08 (6/1/75)
33	*Packaging and Paper (14)*	155.92	+2.4	18.00	7.40	6.52	152.34	153.03	153.00	151.38	130.94	155.92 (16/4)	108.85 (14/1)	155.92 (16/4/81)	43.46 (6/1/75)
34	Stores (44)	271.18	+2.0	10.96	4.65	11.95	265.98	266.63	267.91	271.60	217.76	271.60 (10/4)	238.15 (15/1)	273.48 (4/5/79)	52.63 (6/1/75)
35	Textiles (22)	164.15	+2.7	13.26	7.91	10.23	159.78	158.48	158.19	159.26	123.22	164.15 (16/4)	122.37 (19/1)	235.72 (17/1/67)	62.66 (11/12/74)
36	Tobaccos (3)	235.74	+1.5	24.11	9.88	4.73	232.27	231.02	229.17	232.22	202.07	235.74 (16/4)	193.57 (19/1)	339.16 (2/8/72)	94.34 (13/6/62)
39	Other Consumer (17)	293.28	+1.1	8.71	6.54	14.33	290.07	286.32	283.54	283.57	0.00	293.28 (16/4)	231.28 (4/2)	293.28 (16/4/81)	231.28 (4/2/81)
41	OTHER GROUPS (78)	236.69	+2.3	13.16	6.38	9.36	231.30	230.75	230.31	231.64	201.04	236.69 (16/4)	203.40 (13/3)	236.69 (16/4/81)	58.63 (6/1/75)
42	Chemicals (15)	290.48	+4.7	11.10	7.15	11.43	277.52	277.56	276.63	276.86	301.06	299.29 (2/1)	235.35 (13/3)	329.77 (4/5/79)	71.20 (1/12/74)
44	Office Equipment (6)	124.92	+2.0	14.90	6.65	7.96	122.46	121.49	120.63	121.54	111.11	124.92 (16/4)	93.19 (14/1)	246.06 (1/9/72)	45.34 (2/1/75)
45	Shipping and Transport (13)	635.75	+0.3	13.40	5.84	8.91	633.75	626.20	622.37	628.24	466.75	635.75 (16/4)	518.82 (15/1)	635.75 (16/4/81)	90.80 (29/6/62)
46	Miscellaneous (44)	296.91	+0.6	14.97	5.64	8.21	295.00	295.05	295.89	298.66	240.84	298.66 (10/4)	249.71 (19/1)	298.66 (10/4/81)	60.39 (6/7/75)
49	INDUSTRIAL GROUP (488)	299.40	+2.3	12.35	5.28	9.90	292.59	292.78	292.70	295.12	226.16	299.40 (16/4)	241.24 (15/1)	299.40 (16/4/81)	59.01 (13/12/74)
51	*Oils (12)*	834.33	+5.1	21.52	6.75	5.20	793.48	795.64	787.26	791.68	716.15	923.71 (2/1)	755.27 (7/4)	1065.24 (19/11/80)	87.23 (29/5/62)
59	500 SHARE INDEX	342.07	+2.8	14.04	5.55	8.48	332.63	332.97	332.27	334.85	265.04	342.07 (16/4)	290.43 (14/1)	342.07 (16/4/81)	63.49 (13/12/74)
61	FINANCIAL GROUP (118)	259.68	+1.8	—	5.43	—	255.10	256.62	257.85	262.15	199.39	262.17 (9/4)	227.09 (19/1)	262.17 (9/4/81)	55.88 (13/12/74)
62	Banks (6)	254.89	+2.5	36.30	7.10	3.21	248.72	250.07	249.84	254.30	214.71	254.89 (16/4)	220.84 (11/3)	288.32 (20/7/72)	62.44 (12/12/74)
63	Discount Houses (10)	301.56	+0.1	—	6.14	—	301.40	301.39	302.20	303.31	228.00	314.03 (20/3)	290.51 (15/1)	314.03 (20/3/81)	81.40 (10/12/74)
64	Hire Purchase (4)	268.40	—	8.38	4.62	16.50	268.40	270.81	271.15	269.04	203.15	274.53 (25/3)	194.82 (8/1)	433.74 (4/5/72)	38.83 (11/12/74)
65	Insurance (Life) (10)	268.92	+1.8	—	5.56	—	264.04	266.17	266.07	270.48	180.90	274.72 (2/4)	222.74 (7/1)	274.72 (2/4/81)	44.88 (2/1/75)
66	Insurance (Composite) (9)	168.28	+2.9	—	7.30	—	163.62	166.01	167.77	172.56	127.73	172.74 (9/4)	142.06 (19/1)	183.32 (18/9/80)	43.96 (13/12/74)
67	*Insurance Brokers (8)*	371.84	+1.6	12.25	6.20	11.07	365.89	358.55	359.03	367.22	305.08	371.84 (16/4)	294.21 (20/1)	372.27 (11/8/78)	65.86 (16/12/74)
68	Merchant Banks (13)	158.34	+0.1	—	4.95	—	158.14	158.34	156.85	158.00	103.36	160.48 (3/4)	143.07 (20/1)	278.57 (1/5/72)	31.21 (7/1/75)
69	Property (48)	501.31	+1.3	3.02	2.52	45.68	494.80	497.21	501.77	508.00	387.55	517.77 (2/4)	435.73 (16/1)	517.77 (2/4/81)	56.01 (20/4/65)
70	*Miscellaneous (10)*	171.00	+0.2	18.36	6.05	6.62	170.63	171.18	173.48	174.25	128.11	180.91 (2/3)	165.30 (19/1)	303.18 (18/5/72)	33.29 (17/12/74)
71	Investment Trusts (109)	309.15	+1.4	—	4.98	—	304.74	304.85	304.43	307.41	212.43	309.15 (16/4)	271.01 (23/1)	309.15 (16/4/81)	71.63 (13/12/74)
81	Mining Finance (3)	239.22	+2.6	14.10	5.61	8.23	233.12	232.03	233.52	240.24	186.94	244.84 (9/4)	200.76 (6/2)	277.15 (30/10/80)	66.31 (30/9/74)
91	Overseas Traders (20)	470.76	+1.0	11.50	6.28	10.66	465.88	466.45	467.38	469.70	385.61	470.76 (16/4)	420.28 (14/1)	470.76 (16/4/81)	97.37 (6/1/75)
99	ALL-SHARE INDEX (750)	324.15	+2.5	—	5.51	—	316.20	316.75	316.60	319.75	249.20	324.15 (16/4)	278.20 (14/1)	324.15 (16/4/81)	61.92 (13/12/74)

FIXED INTEREST PRICE INDICES

	British Government	Thur., April 16	Day's change %	Wed. April 15	xd adj. today	xd adj. 1981 to date
1	5 years	108.42	+0.14	108.45	0.18	3.75
2	5-15 years	111.13	+0.24	111.27	0.40	3.86
3	Over 15 years	114.63	+0.21	114.39	—	4.65
4	Irredeemables	128.47	+0.12	128.32	—	1.78
5	All stocks	111.14	+0.20	111.11	0.19	4.02
6	Debentures & Loans	87.55	+0.04	87.51	—	3.66
7	Preference	67.93	−0.15	68.04	—	2.88

FIXED INTEREST YIELDS

	British Govt. Av. Gross Red.		Thur., April 16	Wed. April 15	Year ago (approx.)	1981 Highs	1981 Lows
1	Low Coupons	5 years	11.61	11.60	12.60	11.98 (8/1)	11.20 (20/3)
2		15 years	12.17	12.19	12.40	12.54 (16/1)	11.86 (20/3)
3		25 years	12.26	12.26	12.40	12.66 (6/3)	11.88 (6/1)
4	Medium Coupons	5 years	13.15	13.14	14.54	13.65 (16/1)	12.91 (20/3)
5		15 years	13.69	13.70	13.99	14.13 (16/1)	13.32 (20/3)
6		25 years	13.40	13.42	13.85	13.89 (16/1)	13.03 (20/3)
7	High Coupons	5 years	13.12	13.12	14.46	13.71 (15/1)	12.93 (20/3)
8		15 years	13.89	13.90	14.53	14.35 (16/1)	13.54 (20/3)
9		25 years	13.59	13.58	14.23	14.10 (16/1)	13.15 (20/3)
10	Irredeemables†		11.70	11.69	11.79	11.89 (6/3)	11.35 (20/3)
11	Debs & Loans	5 years	14.47	14.48	15.23	14.81 (30/3)	13.80 (27/3)
12		15 years	14.47	14.48	14.99	14.67 (30/3)	14.16 (27/3)
13		25 years	14.47	14.48	14.74	14.48 (14/4)	14.25 (27/3)
14	Preference†		14.42	14.41	15.91	14.42 (16/4)	14.29 (27/3)

Equity section or group	Base date	Base value	Equity section or group	Base date	Base value
Other Industrial Materials	31/12/80	287.41	Miscellaneous Financial	31/12/70	128.06
Other Consumer	31/12/80	238.14	Food Manufacturing	29/12/67	114.13
Health/Household Prods.	30/12/77	261.77	Food Retailing	29/12/67	114.13
Other Groups	31/12/74	63.75	Insurance Brokers	29/12/67	96.67
Overseas Traders	31/12/74	100.00	Mining Finance	29/12/67	100.00
Engineering Contractors	31/12/71	153.84	All Other	10/4/62	100.00
Mechanical Engineering	31/12/71	153.84	British Government	31/12/75	100.00
Office Equipment	16/1/70	128.20	Debs. & Loans	31/12/77	100.00
Industrial Group	31/12/70	128.20	Preference	31/12/77	76.72

† Flat yield. A list of the constituents is available from the Publishers, The Financial Times, Bracken House, Cannon Street, London, EC4, price 15p, by post 26½p.
CONSTITUENT CHANGES: Robertson Foods (Food Manufacturing) and Central Manufacturing & Trading (Mechanical Engineering) have been deleted and replaced by Sirdar (Textiles) and Vinten Group (Electricals), respectively.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Issue Price p:	Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date	1981 High	1981 Low	Stock	Closing Price p:	+ or −	Div. or Amount	Times Covered	Gross Yield	P.E. Ratio
‖	F.P.	—	£19½	£16¼	Amdahl	£19½	+1¾	Q40c	—	0.9	—
‖	F.P.	—	300	245	✱Atlantic Res.	255	—	—	—	—	—
160	F.P.	3/4	224	170	British Aerospace 50p	221	+12	b7.8	2.0	5.0	14.2
‖	F.P.	16/5	130	89	✱Consultants 10p	115	.....	—	—	—	—
10	F.P.	27/3	19¼	13¾	✱Crest Int Secs. 10p	19¼	+1¼	—	—	—	—
100	F.P.	1/5	120	105	Cystic Fibr Inv Tst £1	112	.....	—	—	—	—
‖	F.P.	—	183	112	†† Eglinton Oil & Gas	173	−2	—	—	—	—
75§	F.P.	30/4	105	84	Espley-Tyas Prop.	86	+2	b3.92	1.2	6.5	17.8
30	F.P.	24/4	44	36	✱Euroflame	44	+6	b2.1	2.5	6.8	8.4
100	F.P.	22/5	107	102	G.T. Global Rec. Inv Tst	107	+5	—	—	—	—
‖	F.P.	—	62	56	✱Harvey & Thompson	57	.....	g2.24	1.1	5.6	22.4
‖	F.P.	13/5	111	93	✱Metal Bulletin	102	−1	T5.0	1.7	7.0	11.9
18§	F.P.	—	22	20½	Munton Bros. 10p	20½	.....	—	—	—	11.6
—	F.P.	—	57	44	New Darion Warrants	51	.....	—	—	—	—
42	F.P.	13/5	46	38	Oil & Gas Production	38	.....	—	—	—	—
4.2	P.P.	13/5	9	7½	Do. ($0.01 pd.)	8	.....	—	—	—	—
‖	F.P.	—	5	3½	✱Reliant Motors	4	.....	—	—	—	—
35	F.P.	—	21	20	Stone Platt Cnv Cm Pf	21	.....	—	—	—	—
100	F.P.	21/4	101	93	T. R. Energy	94	+1	—	—	—	—

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Issue price p:	Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date	1981 High	1981 Low	Stock	Closing Price p:	+ or −
**	F.P.	13/5	34p	32p	Colonial Secs. 7% Cum. 2nd Pref. 5p	32p	−1
100	F.P.	1/5	74	70	Cystic Fibrosis Res'ch In. Tst. 5% Deb. '86	70	.....
97¼	£10	10/7	11	9¾	Leeds (City of) 13½% Red. 2,006	9¾	−⅛
‖	Nil	—	7p	4p	Norton (WE) 11% Cnv. Cum. Red. Prf.	6p	+2
100	Nil	24/4	1pm	¼pm	PMA 10% Cnv. Cum. Red. Prf. N/Pd	¼pm	−¼
£96¾	£20	—	£20	£19	Petroleos Mex. 14½% Ln. Due 2006 £20% pd	£19¾	+¼
‖	F.P.	20/3	170p	147p	Sterling Credit 8% Cnv. Red. Cum. Prf.	163	.....
100	Nil	24/4	34pm	14pm	Suter Elect. 9½% Cv. subunsLn 95-2000 N/Pd	16pm	+2
**	F.P.	26/6	102½	102½	Sutton District Water 8% Pref.	102½	.....
£96¾	£25	—	26¼	25½	Swansea (City of) 13½% Red. 2006 £25pd	25½	.....
**	F.P.	4/6	103	102¼	West Hampshire Water 8% Red. Prf. '86	102¼	.....

"RIGHTS" OFFERS

Issue Price p:	Am'unt paid up	Latest Renunc. Date ●	Latest Renunc. Date ■	1981 High	1981 Low	Stock	Closing price p:	+ or −
164	F.P.	9/3	22/5	220	171	Assoc. Dairies	208	+2
2	Nil	8/4	29/5	5½pm	2pm	Barker & Dobson A	5½pm	−½
$A5	Nil	—	—	315pm	175pm	Broken Hill Prop.	300pm	.....
53p	Nil	—	—	10pm	7½pm	*Country & New Town Props*	10pm	+1½
103	Nil	—	—	30pm	25pm	Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank	28pm	.....
48	F.P.	10/4	29/5	72½	54	I.M.I.	70½	.....
148	Nil	24/4	22/5	25pm	17pm	Spirax-Sarco	18pm	.....
6	Nil	—	—	4¾pm	3¼pm	Sterling Credit	4½pm	.....
40	Nil	24/4	29/5	29pm	13pm	Suter Electrical	17pm	+4
82	Nil	24/4	22/5	35pm	18pm	Thermal Syndicate	35pm	.....
A1¾	75c	—	—	95	69	*Woodside*	92	+1
36	F.P.	20/3	10/4	3	1½	Yorks & Lancs Inv. Tst.	2	+½

Renunciation date usually last day for dealing free of stamp duty. *b* Figures based on prospectus estimate. *g* Assumed dividend and yield. *u* Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's earnings. F Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimate for 1979. Q Gross. T Figures assumed. ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividend or ranking only for restricted dividends. § Placing price to public. pt Pence unless otherwise *indicated.* ¶ *Issued by tender.* ‖ *Offered to holders of ordinary shares as a "rights."* ** Issued by way of capitalisation. §§ Reintroduced. ¶¶ Issued in connection with reorganisation, merger or takeover. ‖‖ Introduction. □ Issued to former preference holders. ■ Allotment letters (or fully-paid). ● Provisional or partly-paid allotment letters. ✱ With warrants. †† Dealings under special Rule. ‡‡ Unlisted Securities Market. ‡‡ London Listing. ‡ Issued with ... settlement scheme. ‡‡ Units comprising 125 A Ord. & 6 12½% Cum. Pref.

UNIT TRUST SERVICE

OFFSHORE & OVERSEAS—contd.

FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

Abbey Unit Tst. Mngrs. (a)
72-80, Gatehouse Rd., Aylesbury 0296 5941

Abbey Am. Gth. Tst.	60.0	64.5	+0.9	2.25
Abbey Capital	51.9	56.3xd	-1.00	3.92
Abbey General	59.5	64.4	+1.4	4.77
Abbey Gilt & F.I. Tst.	106.1	111.7xd	+0.2	11.72
Abbey Income	38.9	42.0xd	+0.5	8.36
Abbey W'w.Bd.Tst.	96.0	101.6	+1.6	6.59
Abbey Inv. Tst. Fd.	53.3	57.6	+0.6	4.17
Equitas Prog. Tst.	85.7	92.6	+1.8	4.42

Allen Harvey & Ross Unit Tst. Mngrs.
45, Cornhill, London EC3V 3PB. 01-623 6314

AHR Gilt Trust	86.8	91.3	----	12.68

Allied Hambro Ltd. (a) (g)
Hambro Hse., Hutton, Brentwood, Essex.
01-588 2851 or Brentwood (0277) 211459

Balanced Funds				
Allied 1st	95.9	102.6	+1.7	5.46
Brit. Inds. Fund	83.7	89.6	+1.5	5.69
Growth & Income	54.9	58.7	+0.9	4.60
Elect. & Ind. Dev.	47.9	51.2xd	+0.9	4.88
Allied Capital	102.7	109.9xd	+1.7	4.00
Hambro Fund	141.5	151.4	+2.3	5.49
Hambro Acc. Fund	193.0	206.5	+3.5	4.41
Income Funds				
High Yield Fd.	71.0	76.0	+0.6	7.89
High Income	85.6	91.6xd	+1.3	7.06
Equity Income Fd.	49.4	52.9	+0.7	6.92
Govt. Secs.	26.0	26.7	+0.1	11.61
International Funds				
International	36.8	39.4	+0.3	2.03
Japan Fund	25.7	27.5	-0.3	0.23
Pacific Fund	71.1	76.1	+0.2	1.08
Secs. Of America	80.6	86.2	+1.3	1.86
Specialist Funds				
Smaller Co.'s Fd.	60.6	64.8	+0.4	4.01
2nd Smlr. Co's Fd.	74.2	79.4xd	+0.5	3.80
Recovery Sits.	147.6	157.9xd	+1.4	4.81
Met. Min. & C'dty.	69.2	74.0xd	-0.3	4.96
Overseas Earnings	73.6	78.8	+1.3	4.68
Exempt Funds				
Income Exempt	55.1	57.9	+0.4	7.34
Far East Exempt	74.4	77.4	-0.3	0.97
Smaller Co. Exempt	96.7	101.5xd	+0.7	3.94
U.S.A. Exempt	134.2	139.6xd	+2.1	2.22

Anderson Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
158, Fenchurch St., EC3M 6AA. 623 9231

Anderson U.T.	71.9	77.1xd	----	3.74

Ansbacher Unit Mgmt. Co. Ltd.
1, Noble St., EC2V 7JA. 01-726 4931

Inc. Monthly Fund	154.0	164.0	----	12.00
Leics.&Gen.Fd.	52.0	55.0	----	—

Anthony Wieler Unit Tst. Mgmt. Ltd.
19, Widegate St., London, E1 7HP. 01-247 8827

Wieler Gwth Fd. Inc.	40.8	43.0	----	3.35
Do. Accum.	52.0	54.7	----	3.35

Arbuthnot Securities Ltd. (a)(c)
37, Queen St., London, EC4R 1BY. 01-236 5281

Capital†	35.4	37.8	-0.1	—
Commodity**	94.7	101.3	-1.7	2.57
(Accumulation)	148.2	158.5	-2.7	2.57
(10% Withdrawal)	71.5	76.5	-1.2	2.57
Eastern & Internatl.†	45.7	49.2	----	1.00
(6% Withdrawal)	31.3	33.7	----	1.00
Extra Income	99.5	107.0	+0.5	9.23
(Accumulation)	118.8	127.8	+1.0	9.23
Finance & Property*	27.9	30.1	----	3.61
Foreign††	139.9	145.8	----	1.00
Giants	49.8	53.2	+0.2	4.35
(Accumulation)	65.2	69.7	+0.3	4.35
Gilt & Fixed	42.9	45.0	+0.1	12.07
(Accumulation)	46.5	48.7	+0.1	12.07
Growth	44.7	47.8	+0.7	4.13
(Accumulation)	58.9	63.0	+0.9	4.13
High Income	38.3	40.9	+0.1	8.86
(Accumulation)	65.1	69.6	+0.2	8.86
(8½% Withdrawal)	50.8	54.3	+0.1	8.86
High Yield	45.1	48.6	+0.1	10.11

Crescent Unit Tst. Mngrs. Ltd. (a)(g)
4 Melville Cres., Edinburgh 3. 031-226 4931

Cres. Amer. Fd.	44.0	47.5	+0.9	0.53
Cres. Internat'l.	86.0	92.8	+1.0	1.68
Cres. High. Dist.	47.9	51.7	+0.5	9.19
Cres. Reserves	53.4	57.6	+0.7	5.10
Cres. Tokyo	34.3	37.0	-0.3	0.95

Dartington Unit Trust Mngt. Ltd.
Bridge Chambers, Barnstaple, Devon 0271 76324

Total Perf. Unit Tst.	23.5	25.0xd	----	8.70

Discretionary Unit Fund Managers
36/38 New Broad St, EC2M 1NU. 01-638 4485

Disc. Inc. April 9	252.6	269.4	----	4.83

E. F. Winchester Fund Mngt. Ltd.
44, Bloomsbury Square, WC1A 2RA 01-623 8893

Great Winchester	19.8	21.9	----	6.45
Gt. Winchester O'seas	29.3	32.6	----	3.26

For Emson and Dudley see Robert Fraser Tst. Mgmt.

Equity & Law Un. Tr. M.♥ (a)(b)(c)
Amersham Rd., High Wycombe. 0494 33377

Equity & Law	94.3	99.2xd	+2.0	4.38

Fidelity International Management Ltd.
62-63 Queen St, London EC4 1AD 01-248 4891

American (z)	39.9	43.0	+1.4	0.59
Amer. Spec. Sits. (z)	29.0	31.2	+0.6	0.50
Gilt + Fixed Int.	25.0	26.2xd	----	12.04
Growth + Income	35.1	37.8	+0.7	6.33
Maximum Inc. Eq. Tst.	29.6	31.9	+0.2	8.47
Special Sits.	42.9	46.2	+0.3	1.65

James Finlay Unit Trust Mngt. Ltd.
10-14, West Nile Street, Glasgow. 041-204 1321

J. Finlay Internat'l	40.4	43.4xd	----	1.73
Accum. Units	50.1	53.8xd	----	1.73
J. Finlay High Income	37.8	40.6	----	9.51
Finlay Wld. Energy	18.3	19.7xd	+0.1	1.35
Accum. Units	24.0	25.5xd	+0.2	1.35
J. Finlay Fd. In. Tst.	40.2	43.2	----	4.97
Accum. Units	52.1	56.0	----	4.97

Prices on April 8. Next dealing April 15.

Framlington Unit Mgt. Ltd. (a)
64, London Wall, EC2M 5NQ. 01-628 5181

Amer. & Gen.	86.4	92.4	+1.6	0.73
Am. T'around	81.0	86.6	+1.4	1.40
Capital Tst.	65.6	70.0xd	+0.6	4.74
(Accum. Units)	69.2	73.8	+0.6	4.74
Convertible & Gilt	49.6	52.2	----	9.67
(Accum. Units)	49.6	52.2	----	9.67
Extra Income Trust	57.6	60.8	+0.6	8.67
Income Tst.	45.0	48.0	+0.2	7.17
Inc. Growth Fd.	68.2	72.8xd	+1.0	1.59
(Accum. Units)	73.6	78.6	+1.2	1.59

Robert Fraser Trust Mgt. Ltd.
28b Albemarle St., W.1. 01-493 3211

Robt. Fraser Ut. Tst.	87.1	93.7xd	----	6.00

Friends' Provdt. Trust Mgrs. (a) (b) (c).
Pixham End, Dorking. 0306 5055

Friends Prov. Units	69.0	73.7	+0.7	3.97
Do. Accum.	99.3	106.1	+1.9	3.97

Funds in Court*
Public Trustee, Kingsway, WC2. 01-405 4300

Capital April 15	145.8	148.7xd	+1.3	4.71
Gross Inc. April 15	86.0	88.2	+2.0	10.88
High Yield April 15	98.9	104.3	+5.4	9.97

*Unauth. Restricted to monies under Court control.

G.T. Unit Managers Ltd.♥
16, Finsbury Circus, EC2M 7DJ. 01-628 8131

G.T. Cap. Income	160.7	172.8	----	2.00
Do. Acc.	206.5	222.0	----	2.00
G.T. Inc. Fd. Un.	220.6	237.2	----	7.90
G.T. U.S. & Gen.	224.4	241.2	----	1.40
GT Wld. Bd. Fd.	97.2	101.2xd	----	5.90
G.T. Japan & Gen.	109.5	117.7xd	----	1.38
♦Gt. Pens. Ex. Fd.	365.4	384.6	----	1.70
G.T. Int'l. Fund	256.9	276.2	----	1.90
G.T. Four Yds. Fd.	61.8	66.4	----	6.30

Lloyd's Life Unit Tst. Mngrs. Ltd.
2, St. Mary Axe, EC3A 8BP. 01-623 6114

Equity Accum. (2)	260.7	274.4	----	3.93

Local Authorities' Mutual Invest. Tst.*
77, London Wall, EC2N 1DB. 01-588 1815

Pro. Fund March 31	148.70		----	6.77
Wider Fund March 31	269.50		----	5.00
Narrower Fd. Mar. 31	77.95		----	12.99

*Unauthorised. Available only to Local Authorities.

M & G Group (y)(c)(z)
Three Quays, Tower Hill, EC3R 6BQ. 01-626 4588
See also Stock Exchange Dealings.

American	68.9	74.1	+1.5	1.94

Schroder Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
48, St. Martins Lane, WC2. Dealings 0705 27733

Capital	173.9	186.9	+1.6	2.76
(Accum. Units)	223.2	240.0	+2.1	2.76
Income Fnd.	239.7	257.7	+1.2	7.19
(Accum. Units)	413.5	444.6	+2.0	7.19
Gen.	131.9	141.8	+0.7	3.80
(Accum. Units)	178.7	192.1	+1.0	3.80
Europe	22.0	23.6xd	+0.1	2.75
(Accum. Units)	26.1	28.8	+0.1	2.75
Smaller Co.'s	151.3	162.6	-0.9	3.00
American	54.3	58.3	+1.0	2.00
(Accum. Units)	54.5	58.3	+1.0	2.00
Tokyo	49.2	52.9	-0.4	0.25
(Accum. Units)	49.2	52.9	-0.4	0.25

Cannon Assurance Ltd.
1 Olympic Way, Wembley HA9 0NB. 01-902 8876

Equity Units		£25.97	----	—
Property Units		£14.26	----	—
Equity Bond/Exec	£17.33	18.34	----	—
Prop. Bond/Exec	£18.68	19.77	----	—
Bal. Bd./Exec/Unit	£17.91	18.95	-0.04	—
Deposit Bond	139.4	147.5	----	—
Equity Accum.		312.9	+0.6	—
Property Accum.		£19.83	----	—
Mngd. Accum.		246.8	-0.5	—
2nd Equity	137.8	145.8	+0.2	—
2nd Property	145.0	153.4	----	—
2nd Managed	132.5	140.2	-0.3	—
2nd Deposit	121.7	128.8	----	—

Henderson Administration
11 Austin Friars, London, EC2. 01-588 3622

High Income Fd.	109.1	114.9	+1.0	—
Gilt Edged Fund	96.1	101.2	+0.2	—
Capital Growth Fund	109.2	115.0	+1.2	—
Global Technology	96.9	102.0	+2.0	—
Special Situations Fd.	114.0	120.1	+0.3	—
North American Fund	127.9	134.7	+2.9	—
Far East Fund	121.6	128.0	-0.5	—
Property Fund	99.3	104.6	----	—
Managed Fund	117.2	123.4	+1.5	—
Deposit Fund	98.3	103.5	----	—

Hill Samuel Life Assur. Ltd.♥
NLA Twr., Addiscombe Rd., Croy. 01-686 4355

OFFSHORE & OVERSEAS FUNDS

Continued on previous page

FT SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

BRITISH FUNDS

"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)

1981 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
99¹⁷⁄₃₂	97⁷⁄₁₆	Exch. 8¼pc 1981	99¹⁵⁄₃₂	+¹⁄₃₂	8.29	11.33
99⁵⁄₁₆	97¾	Exch. 9½pc 1981	99³⁄₁₆	.....	9.57	11.67
97⅛	93¼	Exch. 3pc 1981	97⅛	+⅛	3.09	11.92
99¹³⁄₁₆	99½	Treas. Variable '81§§	99¹³⁄₁₆xd	.....	13.45	12.42
100¾	99¼	Exch. 12¾pc 1981‡‡	100¾xd	+⅛	12.66	11.44
97¾	95⁵⁄₁₆	Treas. 8½pc '80-82‡‡	97¾	.....	8.70	11.68
95	91⅞	Treasury 3pc '82‡‡	94⅜	.....	3.18	10.27
102³⁄₁₆	100⁵⁄₁₆	Treasury 14pc '82‡‡	101¹⁵⁄₁₆	.....	13.73	11.60
99	98⅜	Treas. Variable '82§§	99	.....	11.97	12.72
95¾	93⁵⁄₁₆	Treasury 8¼pc '82	95¹¹⁄₁₆	+⅛	8.62	12.17
96⁹⁄₁₆	93¹³⁄₁₆	Exch. 9¼pc 1982	95¹³⁄₁₆	+⅛	9.65	12.49
94⅞	92⅝	Exch. 8¾pc 1983	94¾	.....	9.23	12.20
89¼	84⅞	Exch. 3pc 1983	88⅛	.....	3.40	10.25
99⅞	97⅜	Treasury 12pc 1983‡‡	98⅞	−⅛	12.14	12.65
96⁹⁄₁₆	96¼	Treas. Variable '83§§	96⅜	.....	12.07	12.62
94½	92½	Treasury 9¼pc '83	93¹³⁄₁₆	.....	9.86	12.48
101¹³⁄₁₆	100¼	Exch. 13¼pc '83	101¹¹⁄₁₆	.....	13.28	13.73
94⅛	92¼	Exch. 10pc 1983	93¹³⁄₁₆	.....	10.66	12.80
87¼	84½	Funding 5½pc '82-84‡‡	86¾	−⅛	6.34	11.24
96¾	94⅝	Exch. 11¼pc 1984	96⅜	−⅛	11.68	12.81
103³⁄₁₆	101⅞	Exchequer 14pc 1984	103⅛xd	−⅛	13.58	12.77
80⅝	78½	Exch. 3pc 1984	79⅞	.....	3.76	10.65
98⅝	96⅝	Treasury 12pc 1984	98⅛	.....	12.22	12.63
107¼	104⅞	Treasury 15pc 1985	106⅞	−⅛	14.03	12.62

Five to Fifteen Years

Over Fifteen Years

Undated

INTERNATIONAL BANK

CORPORATION LOANS

COMMONWEALTH AND AFRICAN LOANS

LOANS

Public Board and Ind.

Financial

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS

AMERICANS

CANADIANS

BANKS AND HIRE PURCHASE

Hire Purchase, etc.

BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS

BUILDING INDUSTRY, TIMBER AND ROADS

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

DRAPERY AND STORES

ELECTRICALS

ELECTRICALS—Continued

ENGINEERING MACHINE TOOLS

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC.

FOOD, GROCERIES—Cont.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.)

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

INDUSTRIALS—Continued

INSURANCE—Continued

LEISURE

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT TRADES

Motors and Cycles

Commercial Vehicles

Components

Garages and Distributors

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

PAPER, PRINTING ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

INSURANCE

PROPERTY—Continued

SHIPPING

SHOES AND LEATHER

SOUTH AFRICANS

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

TRUSTS, FINANCE, LAND

Investment Trusts

INVESTMENT TRUSTS—Cont.

Finance, Land, etc.

OIL AND GAS

OVERSEAS TRADERS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

Africa

MINES

Central Rand

Eastern Rand

Far West Rand

O.F.S.

Finance

Diamond and Platinum

Central African

MINES—Continued

Australian

Tins

Copper

Miscellaneous

High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
15½	14	Burma Mines 10p	14½	......	0.75	♦	7.4
315	180	Colby Res. Corp.	230	−35	—	—	—
255	200	Cons. Murch. 10c.	240	+10	†Q30c	1.8	7.2
98	75	††Hemerdon 10c.	87	......	—	—	—
180	135	Highwood Res.	150	−5	—	—	—
400	300	Northgate C$1	335	−5	—	—	—
487	372	R.T.Z.	475	+12	16.0	3.1	4.9
£111½	£93¼	Do.9½%CnvUnsLn.'95-2000	£110	+½	Q9½%	—	f9.0
143	118	††SPO Minerals 10p	118	−2	—	—	—
47	33	Sabina Inds. C$1.	35	−2	—	—	—
38	28	††SWCM 10p	32	+1	—	—	—
550	465	Tara Exptn. $1	510	......	—	—	—

NOTES

Unless otherwise indicated, prices and net dividends are in pence and denominations are 25p. Estimated price/earnings ratios and covers are based on latest annual reports and accounts and, where possible, are updated on half-yearly figures. P/Es are calculated on "net" distribution basis, earnings per share being computed on profit after taxation and unrelieved ACT where applicable; bracketed figures indicate 10 per cent or more difference if calculated on "nil" distribution. Covers are based on "maximum" distribution; this compares gross dividend costs to profit after taxation, excluding exceptional profits/losses but including estimated extent of offsettable ACT. Yields are based on middle prices, are gross, adjusted to ACT of 30 per cent and allow for value of declared distribution and rights.

- ● "Tap" Stock.
- * Highs and Lows marked thus have been adjusted to allow for rights issues for cash.
- † Interim since increased or resumed.
- ‡ Interim since reduced, passed or deferred.
- ‡‡ Tax-free to non-residents on application.
- ♦ Figures or report awaited.
- ♦ USM; not listed on Stock Exchange and company not subjected to same degree of regulation as listed securities.
- †† Dealt in under Rule 163(2)(a); not listed on any Stock Exchange and not subject to any listing requirements.
- ‡‡ Dealt in under Rule 163(3).
- # Price at time of suspension.
- ¶ Indicated dividend after pending scrip and/or rights issue: cover relates to previous dividends or forecasts.
- ♦ Merger bid or reorganisation in progress.
- ♦ Not comparable.
- ♦ Same interim: reduced final and/or reduced earnings indicated.
- § Forecast dividend; cover on earnings updated by latest interim statement.
- ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividends or ranking only for restricted dividend.
- ★ Cover does not allow for shares which may also rank for dividend at a future date. No P/E ratio usually provided.
- ♥ Excluding a final dividend declaration.
- ✦ Regional price.
- ‖ No par value.

§§ Yield based on assumption Treasury Bill Rate stays unchanged until maturity of stock. ★★ Available only to UK pension schemes and insurance companies engaged in pension business. a Tax free. b Figures based on prospectus or other official estimate. c Cents. d Dividend rate paid or payable on part of capital; cover based on dividend on full capital. e Redemption yield. f Flat yield. g Assumed dividend and yield. h Assumed dividend and yield after scrip issue. j Payment from capital sources. k Kenya. m Interim higher than previous total. n Rights issue pending. q Earnings based on preliminary figures. s Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. t Indicated dividend: cover relates to previous dividend, P/E ratio based on latest annual earnings. u Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's earnings. v Tax free up to 30p in the £. w Yield allows for currency clause. x Prospective real rate of return. y Dividend and yield based on merger terms. z Dividend and yield include a special payment: Cover does not apply to special payment. A Net dividend and yield. B Preference dividend passed or deferred. C Canadian. E Minimum tender price. F Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1981-82. G Assumed dividend and yield after pending scrip and/or rights issue. H Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1980-81. K Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1981-82. M Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1980. N Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1981. P Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1980-81. Q Gross. T Figures assumed. Z Dividend total to date.

Abbreviations: xd ex dividend; xc ex scrip issue; xr ex rights; xa ex all; xd ex capital distribution.

REGIONAL MARKETS

The following is a selection of London quotations of shares previously listed only in regional markets. Prices of Irish issues, most of which are not officially listed in London, are as quoted on the Irish exchange.

			IRISH		
Albany Inv. 20p	42	......			
Bertam	14	......	Conv. 9% '80/82	£93⅞	......
Bdg'wtr. Est. 50p	500	−5	Nat. 9¾% 84/89	£75¼	......
Craig & Rose £1	£11¾	......	Fin. 13% 97/02	£80½	......
Fife Forge	56	......	Alliance Gas	75	+5
Finlay Pkg. 5p	22	......	Arnott	245	......
Graig Ship. £1	£20½	......	Carroll (P.J.)	86	+1
Higsons Brew	73	......	Concrete Prods.	94	......
Holt (Jos) 25p	420	+5	Heiton (Hldgs.)	27	......
I.O.M. Stm. £1	155	−2	Ins. Corp.	395	......
Pearce (C. H.)	950	......	Irish Ropes	52	+2
Peel Hldgs.	100	......	Jacob	47xd	......
Sheff. Refrshmt.	107	......	T.M.G.	22½	......
Sindall (Wm.)	175	......	Unidare	88	......

OPTIONS

3-month Call Rates

Industrials					
A. Brew	6½	House of Fraser	14	Utd. Drapery	6½
BOC Intl.	11	I.C.I.	20	Vickers	15
B.S.R.	4½	"Imps"	7	Woolworths	5
Babcock	11	I.C.L.	6	**Property**	
Barclays Bank	36	Ladbroke	30	Brit. Land	8
Beecham	15	Legal & Gen.	20	Cap. Counties	11
Blue Circle	35	Lex Service	10	Land Secs.	37
Boots	20	Lloyds Bank	28	MEPC	20
Bowaters	24	"Lots"	4½	Peachey	15
Brit. Aerospace	14	London Brick	7	Samuel Props.	13
B.A.T.	25	Lucas Inds.	18	Town & City	2¼
Brown (J.)	7	"Mams"	20	**Oils**	
Burton Ord.	12	Mrks. & Spncr	9	Brit. Petroleum	35
Cadburys	7½	Midland Bank	26	Burmah Oil	16
Courtaulds	6	N.E.I.	7	Charterhall	9
Debenhams	8	Nat. West. Bank	32	KCA	22
Distillers	17	P & O Dfd.	13	Premier	10
Dunlop	7½	Plessey	30	Shell	34
Eagle Star	22	Racal Elect.	34	Tricentrol	30
F.N.F.C.	3½	R.H.M.	5	Ultramar	44
Gen. Accident	30	Rank Org. Ord.	18	**Mines**	
Gen. Electric	60	Reed Intnl.	20	Charter Cons.	21
Glaxo	28	Sears	5	Cons. Gold	45
Grand Met.	14	Tesco	5½	Lonrho	9
G.U.S. 'A'	44	Thorn EMI	30	Rio T. Zinc	45
Guardian	32	Trust Houses	18		
G.K.N.	16	Tube Invest.	18		
Hawker Sidd	25	Turner & Newall	10		
		Unilever	50		

A selection of Options traded is given on the London Stock Exchange Report page

"Recent Issues" and "Rights" Page 28

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Saturday April 18 1981

MEN OF THE WEEK

Darndest thing of my life

BY DAVID LASCELLES

JOHN YOUNG and Bob Crippen proved they had what is known in their trade as "the right stuff" when they hurtled into space in the heaviest and most sophisticated spececraft yet made—a sort of gutsy coolness, a drive to test the outer reaches of what their trade als ocalls "the envelope" that confines man to his world. But this latest milestone in space exploration could also make the likes of Young and Crippen redundant in the years to come.

Before they went into purdah, they managed to utter a few sentences to a delighted nation. Young, the shuttle's commander and now a veteran of five space flights, said simply: "We're really not too far—the human race isn't—from going to the stars." Crippen, enjoying his first taste of space, said: "For me personally, it was the darndest thing of my life."

Commander John Young

His pulse rate barely changed at all

John Glenn had a hairier ride, Neil Armstrong travelled further, but Columbia demanded a special measure of faith from its crew. Never before had NASA put human beings into orbit on a spacecraft's maiden flight, and the number of things that could have gone wrong does not bear thinking about (both astronauts carried $800,000 in life insurance for the trip). The men also had to keep their heads cool and their palms dry as most of the control systems were on board rather than on the ground (including the troublesome computers that delayed the launch).

And then there were the tiles. NASA played down the danger posed by those that fell off. But the first thing that Young did when he emerged from the hatch wreathed in smiles was take a quick look at Columbia's underbelly which only an hour before had been the only thing between him and a fiery fate.

A 50-year-old Navy test pilot, reserved by nature and a keen jogger, Young had already been on two Gemini missions, and visited the moon twice, once in orbit and once on the surface where he spent 71 hours, longer than the entire shuttle mission. He is now by far America's most experienced astronaut, and his pulse rate barely changed at all during the thunderous drama of the launch.

Crippen's on the other hand, shot up to 130 beats a minute. Aged 43, this "rookie" had waited 12 years for his first shot at space and plainly relished every minute of it, performing antics for the TV cameras and cracking jokes with Houston Control.

Like Young, he is a naval officer, and married with two children. Both men will probably stay with the space programme for a while, as a lot of other astronauts have, though some like Frank Borman have gone into business and others like Glenn into politics. In some unhappy cases, re-adjustment to ordinary life proved too much and led to at least half-dozen incidents of mental disorders or drink out of the many dozens of astronauts.

Ironically, however, the success of Columbia brings the day closer when astronauts need no longer be chosen from that hardy breed of military men in superb health with thousands of flying hours under their belts. Before long, shuttle missions will be crewed by men and women in shirt sleeves, sleeping in bunks and cooking food in a galley. Scientists for whom a jog around the block rates as exercise, will also be able to go along.

By the late 1980's when shuttles are blasting off at the rate of one every ten days, literally hundreds of people will be qualified to crew them, and men like Young and Crippen will belong to a bygone age.

French leaders condemn bomb attack in Corsica

BY ROBERT MAUTHNER IN PARIS

FRENCH political leaders have condemned the bomb attack on Thursday at Ajaccio airport, Corsica, which killed a young Swiss tourist and hurt seven other people, just as President Giscard d'Estaing's aircraft was landing.

The explosive device—composed of 8.8 lbs of dynamite with a timing mechanism—went off as M. Giscard d'Estaing was arriving for a Presidential election campaign tour of the French Mediterranean island.

A warning that the time-bomb, placed in an automatic luggage locker, was about to go off had been given a few minutes before the explosion in an anonymous telephone call.

Although the caller referred to the clandestine Corsican National Liberation Front (FNLC) separatist movement, police are not convinced that this group was responsible for the explosion. The FNLC had announced on April 1 that it would respect a truce until after the presidential election, that is at least until May 10.

The 19-year-old Swiss youth died of his injuries after being transported by air to a Marseilles hospital. Three of the others injured were Swiss tourists, the other four Corsicans.

It is not certain that those responsible for the bomb were hoping to strike at President Giscard directly. It was known that he would not pass through the terminal building on his way to Ajaccio, so the blast could not have touched him.

Shortly after the explosion, M. Giscard d'Estaing made a speech promising that the state would defend the security of French citizens and maintain "republican order" in Corsica.

The President emphasised that, if re-elected, he would see to it that the "cultural personality" of the Corsican people was maintained, but added that the island would remain an integral part of the French Republic "for ever."

The bomb attack came at a time when M. Giscard d'Estaing's popularity appears to be flagging, with just over 10 days to go to the first round of the Presidential election.

None of the major public opinion polls published yesterday—the last before the first round of voting—predict a victory for the French President.

In yesterday's major Public Opinion polls M. Giscard d'Estaing's best score is a dead-heat with M. Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist candidate, in the second ballot run-off, forecast by the Louis-Harris-France poll. Another poll, organised by the French Institute of Public Opinion gives M. Mitterrand as the winner by 51.5 per cent of the vote against M. Giscard d'Estaing's 48.5 per cent.

In the first round President Giscard's best performance in the most recent polls is 28 per cent against 24 per cent for M. Mitterrand, with M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, making rapid headway with scores between 17 and 19.5 per cent.

While M. Giscard d'Estaing and, to a lesser extent, M. Mitterrand, have both lost ground in successive polls on first round voting intentions since the middle of March, M. Chirac has made up as much as four percentage points during the same period.

M. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, has also benefited from the weakening of the two main candidates. He can hope to obtain between 17 and 18.5 per cent in the first round.

Election profiles and picture, Page 2

U.S. stops supporting value of the dollar

By David Buchan in Washington

THE U.S. will "not intervene to support the dollar in the foreign exchange markets as a regular practice," Mr. Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, said yesterday. But it would intervene to bolster the U.S. currency in "emergency situations" such as the recent shooting of President Ronald Reagan.

This could mean wider fluctuations in the dollar's value in daily trading on the exchanges, but "we are interested in free markets, not controlled markets," Mr. Reagan said in an interview. This marked a philosophical switch from policy in the final two years (1978-80) of the Carter Administration, he said.

Public enunciation of the Reagan Administration's more laissez-faire intervention approach—by Mr. Regan and other Treasury officials this week—reflects satisfaction that the policy has worked well in its first three months, with the dollar weathering its first potential crisis on March 30 when the President was shot.

On that day, the New York Federal Reserve Bank, which does the Administration's bidding on intervention matters, bought $79m (£35.7m) worth of dollars to support the U.S. currency, Mr. Regan confirmed yesterday. This was felt to be an emergency because the President's shooting came on top of downward dollar pressure due to the Polish situation.

Even so, the intervention was small by historical standards, although Mr. Regan said $79m was "as much as we have intervened with" so far under the new Administration.

In its first two year the Carter Administration, acting through the Fed, intervened relatively little in the foreign exchange markets, a policy that was characterised as one of "benign neglect." However, after a persistent decline of the dollar, the Carter Administration launched a dollar support package in November 1978, and began to take a far more active and detailed interest in the currency. According to treasury officials, the administration was usually intervening in some proportion on a daily basis.

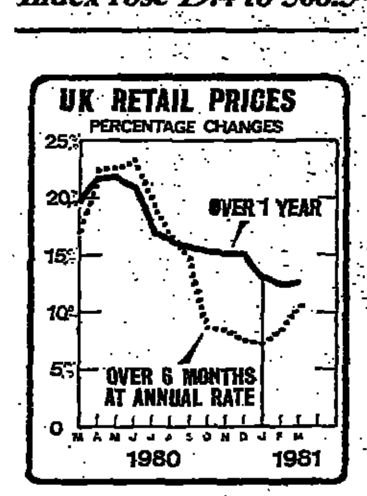
The Treasury Secretary conceded that the dollar needed little support recently. Thus the new approach had not been greatly tested. From January 1 to April 10, for instance, the dollar rose 9.5 per cent against the D-mark and 11.8 per cent against the French franc. But the Administration had decided right from the start to take a more relaxed view on intervention and the dollar.

Mr. Regan met last weekend in London with Finance Ministers of the major partners of the U.S. They were said to have emphasised their concern that the U.S. interest rates were too high.

THE LEX COLUMN

Equities strike a supply vacuum

Index rose 19.4 to 568.5



Share prices have been rising strongly over the past few weeks, but there was something special about the vertical rise on Thursday. Those jobbers who had quietly squared their books ahead of the holiday weekend must have had a very nasty shock when they ran into buying on Thursday morning.

This is traditionally a good time of year for the equity market, and it seems that the general public is, for once, a net buyer of shares: money has been pouring into the unit trusts. And demand for equities is still not being met by any substantial level of new issues.

Aside from the British aerospace offer for sale, there has been only a handful of large rights issues so far in 1981 — only three have raised over £20m. This is peanuts, and the results season, during which rights issues are frequently announced, is well advanced.

Unusually, though, equities have received no help from the gilt-edged market in the past fortnight. Just before the Budget, 25-year high coupon gilts yielded 8 percentage points more than the All-Share Index — historically not far short of a well-established ceiling. The sharp advance of gilt-edged immediately after the Budget narrowed the gap to 7.3 points at one stage, but since then it has progressively widened, and Thursday's surge in equities takes it back over 8.

The big question now is whether this relationship can be stretched any further. A very sharp rise in company profits, and thus in dividend-paying power, might justify a wider yield gap. So might an acceleration in the rate of inflation, which would damage bonds more than equities.

The latest retail price figures, however, do not really suggest that inflation is speeding up. An upturn in the economy which some indicators are now feebly signalling could lead to a big increase in profits towards the end of this year. But the profits base is very low, and a lot of companies will want to rebuild their reserves rather than restore previous dividend levels.

The reason that gilts have been so sluggish is that in order to achieve respectable money supply figures in the first quarter of this year the authorities sold very large quantities of stock—March's net sales of gilts were the second highest on record. But in the last month money has been very easy because the Civil Service strike has disrupted the flow of tax revenue. Some economists believe that this has been a contributory factor to the rise in equities, and there does certainly seem to be a lot of speculative buying about which might be encouraged by easy money. Perhaps the adage "buy on a strike" is being taken too far.

Saint Piran

Saint Piran's independent shareholders are left in a quandary by the Department of Trade. The final report of the inspectors published on Thursday concludes that the Sir Piran board is controlled by Gasco and Mr. Jim Raper, although they constitute a minority. "The present directors are likely to be faced with conflicts of interest which, on the evidence of the past, they are unlikely to resolve for the benefit of St. Piran."

The inspectors have strongly recommended the Department to apply to the courts to wind the company up. But the Department has refused to take on the role of fairy godmother, pointing out that shareholders can go to the court themselves to produce the equivalent outturn.

This is not entirely unreasonable. The inspectors have not found any evidence of criminal activity (although they point to breaches of Australian legislation). The implied fault is that directors have fallen short of their duty to act in the best interests of shareholders. The Department can argue that it has provided the ammunition for shareholders to use before a judge and that it is up to them to make use of it. Indeed it is beginning to look as if the Department is prepared to move only when the interests of non-shareholders are endangered—with insurance brokers and car warranty firms high on the list of those it has wound up.

However, in this case the Department is wrong to stand aside. While the institutions are capable of looking after themselves—as the Pru has shown in taking on Newman Industries—the predominantly small shareholders of St Piran will find recourse to the law more difficult. The legislation in the 1980 Companies Act is untried and bringing an action could be very costly. Moreover, Mr. Raper's flouting of UK conventions from a foreign base is not purely the problem of other St. Piran shareholders—it reveals shortcomings that should be tackled to the benefit of the whole investing community. Meanwhile, the hapless shareholders of St. Piran must be pinning their hopes on a rival takeover bid for their stock, following the intervention of Burma Mines.

Paterson Zochonis

Tightly-held companies occasionally make scrip issues of preference shares to help their controlling family trusts raise liquidity to meet any capital tax liabilities. This is one of those instances when the interests of controlling shareholders can differ from those of the rest who may not welcome a new permanent charge on earnings ahead of their own claims.

It is difficult, however, to be too critical of Paterson Zochonis, which is again resorting to this practice. The company has an outstanding growth record. Indeed, the main reason for the issue is that the shares have more than doubled since PZ's last such issue in September, 1977, and so the trusts' potential tax liabilities are much larger.

While indulging in one slightly anachronistic practice, however, Paterson might have done well to jettison another by enfranchising its A ordinary shares. The directors would still control more than half the total equity even if the A shareholders had votes.

Just fancy that

BTR's annual report shows current cost shareholders' funds of £246.5m, a figure which loks almost laughable compared with the market capitalisation of £816m at last night's price of 512p. Even after the sharp rise in "recovery" stocks over the past few days this is higher than the combined capitalisation of GKN, Lucas, Tube Investments, John Brown and Dunlop.

Biffen opposes inspectors' call to wind up Saint Piran

BY REG VAUGHAN

MR. JOHN BIFFEN, the Trade Secretary, has flatly rejected the recommendation by Department of Trade company inspectors that Saint Piran should be wound up.

The DoT's second report into the controversial mining and property company was published on Thursday just hours before Burma Mines, an investment trust controlled by Mr. Tom Scrase, said that it hoped to be able to mount a rescue.

Saint Piran owns Pendares and South Crofty tin mines in Cornwall as well as wolfram and lead/zinc mines in the Duchy. It also engages in tin and wolfram mining in Malaysia and Thailand, and property development in the UK through its Milbury subsidiary.

Gasco Investments, the master company of Mr. Jim Raper, a former chairman of Saint Piran, who is severely criticised in the report, launched a bid for the company earlier this week. Gasco's offer of 50p per share compares with the 85p bid which the Takeover Panel ordered the company to make last April. The panel alleged that Gasco had acted with others in building up a 37 per cent stake in Saint Piran.

Mr. Scrase, chairman of Burma Mines, said on Thursday that he would try to make a higher offer to Saint Piran's shares, or find a friendly bidder because Gasco's offer "substantialy undervalues" Saint Piran. Mr. Scrase is senior partner in Gittins & Co., stockbrokers.

Shareholders in Saint Piran will be told whether the effort to mount a bid was successful before the closing date of Gasco's offer. Including a 4.37 per cent stake held by Burma Mines, Gittins' clients control 17.5 per cent of the Saint Piran shares which were suspended at 65p last June on the London Stock Exchange.

The recommendation to wind up the company forms the main conclusion of Mr. G. M. Godfrey, QC, and Mr. A. J. Hardcastle, an accountant. They are the two government inspectors appointed a year ago to investigate the affairs and ownership of the company.

Their probe follows years of controversy over the true ownership of the company which has involved it in brushes with the Takeover Panel and the Stock Exchange.

The inspectors' interim report in April 1980 alleged that Mr. Raper had exercised a controlling interest over the affairs of Saint Piran since 1974 through a complex web of companies. In January 1976 this level of interest had reached 48.54 per cent, it said.

The inspectors state that the Saint Piran board is controlled by Gasco Investments and Mr. Raper. "We believe it impossible to treat the board as independent of Raper; he has, we think, been a director of Saint Piran in all but name."

The inspectors say it should be considered whether Saint Piran holders (other than Gasco) would be best served by holding directly the investments in South Crofty and Milbury, both seperately listed subsidiaries. This would dilute Gasco's influence or remove it.

The inspectors feel that the group's Far East interests, which have a continuing attraction for Mr. Raper, should be liquidated and the proceeds distributed.

Mr. Reginald Eyre, Under-Secretary of State, said on Thursday that the inspectors' recommendation had been carefully considered. But after taking Counsel's advice, he said: "I do not believe that the action recommended by the inspectors would be appropriate."

The Minister is leaving it up to shareholders to take action if they so wish. Mr. Eyre said: "It is now for the shareholders to consider their position. I am not persuaded that costly litigation . . . would be justified in the public interest."

Dealings in foreign cash increase

BY PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH RESIDENTS have sharply increased their financial transactions in foreign currencies in the last few months.

This may have contributed to the recent weakening of sterling at a time when foreign inflows into London appear to have been declining.

New Bank of England monetary figures show that UK residents increased their deposits in currencies other than sterling by £474m in the month to mid-March, while lending to the UK private sector in foreign currencies rose by £543m in the same period.

British residents, mainly companies, have increased their foreign currency deposits because of high interest rates abroad relative to those in the UK. There is now, for example, a record gap between UK and U.S. three-month deposit rates.

There is also probably a desire to hedge against a fall in the value of sterling. Companies are becoming more accustomed as well to handling large foreign currency balances following the end of exchange controls 18 months ago. They are thus increasing their foreign currency borrowing.

After taking account of bank lending in sterling overseas, the overall picutre is that external and foreign currency influences were a slightly smaller expansionary influence on the money supply than in the previous month.

This suggests in turn that there may be some combination of a reduction in the previously record surplus on the current account of the balance of payments and a smaller inflow on capital account into sterling.

The Bank figures confirm earlier indications that sterling M3, the broadly-defined money supply including cash and bank current and deposit accounts, rose by 0.7 per cent last month, and has recently been growing within the official target range.

Interpretation of the money supply figures from now on is likely to be very difficult because of the Civil Service dispute which has cut tax revenue and boosted Government borrowing. Consequently, the mid-April figure is expected to be significantly distorted.

The rise in the money supply last month reflected a big jump in bank lending and some inflows from abroad. These were partially offset by very heavy sales of Central Government debt, which more than financed public borrowing and so mopped up liquidity.

Bank lending to the UK private sector rose by £1.16bn last month, the biggest rise since last October. Even after adjusting for all special factors, such as arbitrage borrowing from one bank to re-lend at a profit to another elsewhere, lending seems to have been higher than recently. This could be partly explained by the heavy sales of gilts and also by the slight pick-up in output.

Sales of Central Government debt (gilts and national savings) were £1.77bn and more than double Whitehall's borrowing.

Continued from Page 1

Polish debt

The banks have, however, again pressed Poland for more detailed economic information. Concern over the Polish economy was heightened on March 5 when the banks were given a document by the Polish authorities that showed, as already reported in the Financial Times, that extreme austerity measures would be necessary to restore order to Poland's economy.

Our foreign staff adds: Hungary intends to continue raising loans in the West finance projects to increase exports and conserve energy, Mr. Matyas Timar, the president of the Hungarian national bank, said in Budapest on Thursday.

Continued from Page 1

Immigrants

critical questions was that Britain had the same right as other countries to decide who should be its citizens, and had been a generous host.

She stressed that the controversial Nationality Bill, which has been amended in key respects since publication, would not affect the rights of Indians already settled in Britain or UK passport holders entitled to settle.

She claimed to have allayed the fears of a group of Indian MPs who discussed the issue with her at a specially convened meeting. But there still seemed to be much anxiety that could sour Anglo-Indian relations.

Mrs. Gandhi was surprisingly outspoken when she told British journalists that the present atmosphere in Britain on race and immigration had "shaken the confidence of immigrants there and of people here." In her view, something had to be done to ensure that confidence was restored.

The concern felt by Mrs. Thatcher at the upsurge of Indian anger showed during her address to both Houses of Parliament in New Delhi when she inserted a section aimed at explaining the British Government's reasons for introducing the legislaton. Socialist and Communist MPs boycotted the occasion.

Weather

UK TODAY

Dry with some sunshine.

London, S. England, Midlands, S. Wales, Channel Is.
Sunny periods, variable, cloudy later. Max 13C (55F).

E. England, S. Scotland
Sunny intervals, rather cloudy at times. Max 10C (50F).

N. Wales, N.W. England, N. Ireland.
Sunny periods, frost early and late. Max 14C (57F).

C., N. Scotland.
Sunny intervals, mainly dry. Max 10C (50F).

Outlook:
Mostly dry, sunny intervals.

WORLDWIDE

		Y'day midday °C	°F			Y'day midday °C	°F
Ajaccio	R	13	55	London	S	11	52
Algiers	C	18	64	L. Ang.†	S	17	63
Amsdm.	S	9	48	Luxmbg.	S	8	46
Athens	F	22	72	Luxor	S	30	86
Bahrain	S	28	82	Madrid	C	14	57
Barclna.	C	18	64	Majorca	T	18	64
Beirut	S	20	68	Malaga	C	20	68
Belfast	S	10	50	Malta	F	21	70
Belgrd.	C	8	46	M'chstr	S	12	54
Berlin	Sn	5	41	Melbne.	C	21	70
Biarritz	C	14	57	Mx. C.†	F	18	64
Bmghm.	S	11	52	Miami†	S	29	84
Blackpl.	S	14	57	Milan	R	7	45
Bordx.	F	17	63	Montrl.†	F	8	46
Boulgn.	S	10	50	Moscow	C	2	36
Bristol	S	12	54	Munich	S	7	45
Brussels	S	10	50	Nairobi	R	18	64
Budpst.	C	8	46	Naples	R	16	61
Cairo	S	26	79	Nwcstl.	S	9	48
Cardiff	S	11	52	N. York†	S	14	57
Cas'b'ca	C	17	63	Nice	C	17	63
Cape T.	S	25	77	Nicosia	C	20	68
Chicg.†	F	17	63	Oporto	S	19	66
Cologne	S	9	48	Oslo	S	10	50
Cpnhgn.	F	7	45	Paris	S	11	52
Corfu	C	17	63	Perth	C	25	77
Denver†	S	22	72	Prague	F	3	37
Dublin	F	12	54	Rykjvk.	C	7	45
Dbrvnk.	R	11	52	Rhodes	S	20	68
Ednbgh.	S	8	46	Rio J'o†	C	23	73
Faro	S	18	64	Rome	R	13	55
Florence	C	13	55	Salzbrg.	F	9	48
Frankft.	F	8	46	S'ciscot	F	15	59
Funchal	C	18	64	Singapr.	F	32	90
Geneva	S	10	50	Stckhm.	F	6	43
Gibrltr.	C	19	66	Strasbg.	S	11	52
G'nsey	S	9	48	Sydney	S	25	77
Helsinki	F	3	37	Tangier	C	17	63
H. Kong	C	24	75	Tel Aviv	C	19	66
Innsbrk.	S	10	50	Tenerife	F	15	59
Invrnss.	S	9	48	Tokyo	R	17	63
I.o.Man	S	10	50	T'r'ntot	S	15	59
Istanbul	C	12	54	Tunis	F	20	68
Jersey	F	12	54	Valencia	C	18	64
Jo'burg.	F	24	75	Venice	C	8	46
L. Plms.	C	19	66	Vienna	C	7	45
Lisbon	S	19	66	Warsaw	C	4	39
Locarno	C	10	50	Zurich	S	9	48

C—Cloudy. F—Fair. R—Rain. S—Sunny. Sn—Snow. T—Thunder.
† Noon GMT temperatures.

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